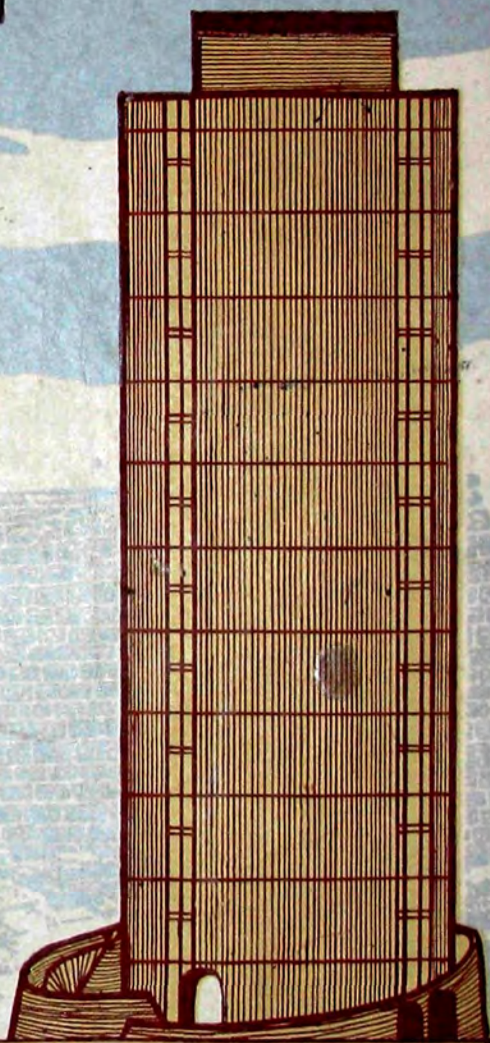
ବୃହତ୍ତର କଟକ

SOUVENIR ON PERSPECTIVES FOR CUTTACK'S DEVELOPMENT



GREATER CUTTACK IMPROVEMENT TRUST JUNE 1976



SOUVENIR ON PERSPECTIVES FOR CUTTACK'S DEVELOPMENT

Editor—SHRI N. C. PANI
B. Sc. (Hons.), B.E. (Civil),
D.T.R. (Paris), F.I.E. India),
CHIEF ENGINEER, G.C.I.T.

Associated Editor--SHRI N. P. PANIGRAHI
M.A.,LL.B., D.S.S.M. (Dist)
P.G. DIP T.C.P. (U.R.P.),
SECRETARY, G.C I.T.

Greater Cuttack Improvement Trust
June, 1976

For opinions expressed by the Authors in their articles appearing in the Souvenir, this Trust is not responsible

—Editor



SHRI N. K. PANDA, I.A.S.
CHAIRMAN,
Born on 13th May, 1931.

Educated in Ravenshaw College. Delhi School of Economics and goined Indian Administrative Service in the year 1954.

Worked in the Orissa Secretariat in Finance, Political & Services Departments and in the Work Study Division of Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

He joined the United Nations in the year 1965.

From 1965 to 1971 he was engaged in two assignments in United Nations. The first assignment was as an Adviser to East African Community which was a Confederation of Keneya, Uganda and Tanganaika. In the second assignment, he was an Adviser in Administrative Reforms (Management Services) in the UNDP/ILO Training and Development Project for the whole of East Africa. In the last six months of his stay, he was entrusted with the duty of Project Coordinator to supervise the work of other International Advisers.

It is worth mentioning that in 1971 in addition to his U.N. job, he was also appointed independently as a Member of the Salaries Review Commission of the East African Governments. In 1962, he was a Member and Secretary of the Delegation on Public Administration and Planning to Ceylon

Among his publications are two books, one on "Work Study in Administration" and the other "Four Facets of Business "Efficiency", not to mention, several articles in various journals and magazines.

At present, he is the Revenue Divisional Commissioner (Central Division), Cuttack.

MEMBERS OF THE GREATER CUTTACK IMPROVEMENT TRUST



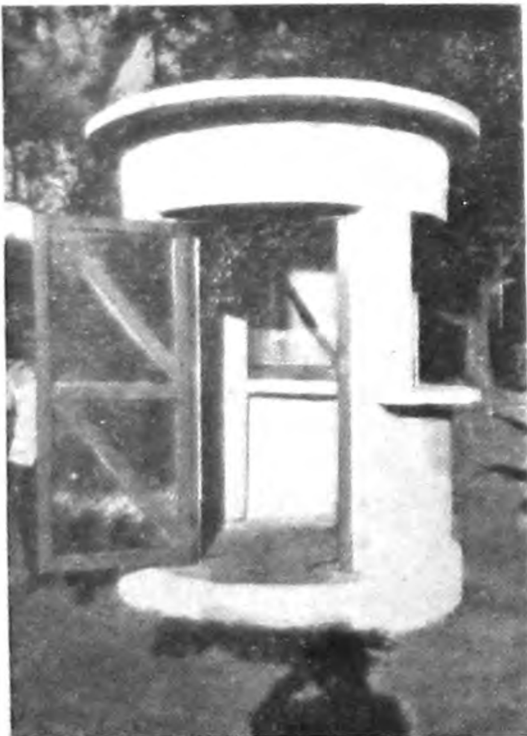
Auxilliary Market Building at Buxi Bazar,
Opened by Srimati Nandini Satpathy, Chief Minister.



Foundation Stone of Buxi Bazar Super Market Cum-Office,
complex laid by Srimati Nandini Satpathy, Chief Minister on 11.5.76.



A Prefabricated Kiosk; can be set up within 24 hours



A Circular Kiosk

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ଓଡ଼ିଆ ବିଭାଗ :



SMT. NANDINI SATPATHY
CHIEF MINISTER.
ORISSA

MESSAGE

I am glad that the Greater Cuttack Improvement Trust is publishing a Souvenir to highlight its activities as also to educate the people on the requirements of a modern township.

I am aware of the plans and programmes drawn up by the Trust to develop Cuttack City and its suburbs. As the premier commercial and cultural centre of the State, development of Cuttack has to be speeded up for providing basic and modern amenities to the people.

I hope the people of Cuttack will extend their active and enthusiastic support for successful implementation of these programmes.

I send my good wishes to the Trust and people of Cuttack on this occasion.

NANDINI SATPATHY



ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମଣ ମଲ୍ଲିକ
କୃଷି ଓ ସମବାୟ, ପୂର୍ତ୍ତ ଓ
ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ଉନ୍ନୟନ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

କଟକ ସହର ଭାରତବର୍ଷର ପ୍ରାଚୀନ ନଗରୀ ମାନଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଅନ୍ୟତମ । ଏହି ପୁରାତନ ସହର ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ରାଜନୈତିକ ବାଣିଜ୍ୟିକ ତଥା ଶିକ୍ଷା ସଂସ୍କୃତିର ପ୍ରାଣକେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମାତ୍ର ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ପରିତାପର ବିଷୟ ଏହି ଐତିହାସିକ କଟକ ସହର ଅବହେଳିତ ଅବସ୍ଥାରେ ପଡ଼ିରହିଲା । ଇଂରେଜଶାସନ ଅମଳରେ ଏବଂ ସ୍ୱାଧୀନତା ପରବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ସମୟରେ ଅବଶ୍ୟ କଟକଠାରେ କେତେକ ସରକାରୀ ଅଫିସ ସ୍କୁଲ କଲେଜ ସ୍ଥାପିତ ହୋଇଥିଲା ମାତ୍ର ସହରବାସୀଙ୍କ ସର୍ବନିମ୍ନ ଆବଶ୍ୟକୀୟ ସୁଖସ୍ୱାଚ୍ଛନ୍ଦ୍ୟ ଯୋଗାଇ ଦେବା ବା ସହରର ଶ୍ରୀବୃଦ୍ଧି ନିମନ୍ତେ ବିଶେଷ ଦୃଷ୍ଟି ଦିଆଯାଇ ପାରିନାହିଁ । ସ୍ୱାଧୀନତା ପରବର୍ତ୍ତୀ କାଳରେ ସହରରେ କ୍ରମାଗତ ଜନସଂଖ୍ୟାର ଅଭିବୃଦ୍ଧି ସଙ୍ଗେ ତାଳମିଳାଇ ଆବଶ୍ୟକୀୟ ସୁଖ ସୁବିଧା ଯଥା ସହରର ସାଧାରଣ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା, ଜଳ ନିଷ୍କାସନ, ପାନୀୟ ଜଳଯୋଗାଣ, ଉପଯୁକ୍ତ ବାସଗୃହ ଯୋଗାଣ ପ୍ରଶସ୍ତ ରାସ୍ତାର ଅଭାବରୁ କ୍ରମେ ଆବର୍ଜନାମୟ ଦୁର୍ଗନ୍ଧଯୁକ୍ତ ନର୍ଦ୍ଦମା ମଶାମାଛି ସଂକ୍ରାମକ ରୋଗ ଯାନବାହନର ଦୁର୍ଘଟଣା ସହରକୁ ବାସସ୍ଥାନର ଅନୁପଯୋଗୀ କରି ପକାଇଲା । ଏପରିକି ବହୁ ଅର୍ବାଚୀନ ସହର ତଥା ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ରାଜ୍ୟର ଜିଲ୍ଲା ସଦର ମହକୁମାଠାରୁ ଅନୁନ୍ନତ ଅବସ୍ଥାରେ ଏହି ଐତିହାସିକ ସହରଟି ପଡ଼ି ରହିଥିଲା ।

ଅତୀତରେ କଟକସହରର ଉନ୍ନୟନ ନିମନ୍ତେ ବହୁ ଉଦ୍ୟମ ଯେ କରା ନଯାଇଛି ତାହାନୁହେଁ ମାତ୍ର ଉପଯୁକ୍ତ ଯୋଜନାବଦ୍ଧ ପରିକଳ୍ପନାର ଅଭାବହେତୁ ଏହା ଆଶାନୁରୂପ ଫଳପ୍ରସୂ ହୋଇପାରିନାହିଁ, ଏ ଦିଗରେ ସମ୍ବଳର ଅଭାବ ମଧ୍ୟ କେତେକାଂଶରେ ଅନ୍ତରାୟ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିଛି ।

ଏହି ପରିପ୍ରେକ୍ଷୀରେ କଟକ ସହର ଏବଂ ତତ୍‌ସଂଲଗ୍ନ ଅଞ୍ଚଳକୁ ମିଶାଇ ଏକ ସୁନ୍ଦର ଆକର୍ଷଣୀୟ ଏବଂ ଆଧୁନିକ ସହରରୂପେ ଗଢ଼ି ତୋଳିବାର ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ ରଖି ବୃହତ୍ତର କଟକ ଉନ୍ନୟନ ସଂସ୍ଥା (Greater Cuttack Improvement Trust) ନାମରେ ଏକ ସଂସ୍ଥା ଗଠନ କରାଯାଇଛି । ସହର ଜୀବନରେ ଆବଶ୍ୟକୀୟ କେତେକ ସୁବିଧା ଯଥା ବାସଗୃହ ଯୋଗାଣ, ମାର୍କେଟ ଗୃହ, ଯାନବାହନ ଚଳାଚଳର ସୁବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା, ସହରର ସାଧାରଣ ଶ୍ରୀବୃଦ୍ଧି, ଐତିହାସିକ କୀର୍ତ୍ତି ସମ୍ପନ୍ନ ସ୍ଥାନମାନଙ୍କର ରକ୍ଷଣାବେକ୍ଷଣ ତଥା ଅଧିକ ଆକର୍ଷଣୀୟ କରିବା, ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ ପରିବେଶ ସୃଷ୍ଟି ଏବଂ ନଗରବାସୀଙ୍କର ଆମୋଦପ୍ରମୋଦ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ନିମନ୍ତେ ପରିବେଷ୍ଟନୀ ତଥା ଆଗନ୍ତୁକମାନଙ୍କର ରହିବା ନିମନ୍ତେ ଆଧୁନିକ ସ୍ୱାଚ୍ଛନ୍ଦ୍ୟ-

ଯୁକ୍ତ ହୋଟେଲ ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ନିର୍ମାଣ ପ୍ରଭୃତି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ହାତକୁ ନେଇଛନ୍ତି । ଯାହାଦ୍ୱାରା ସହରର ସାଧାରଣ ନାଗରିକ ଜୀବନ ଅଧିକ ସ୍ୱାଚ୍ଛନ୍ଦ୍ୟପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ହୋଇ ପାରିବ । ସହରର ଦୁର୍ବଳ ଶ୍ରେଣୀର ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କୁ କେତେକ ସୁବିଧା ସୁଯୋଗ ଯୋଗାଇ ଦେବାଫଳରେ ସେମାନଙ୍କର ଆର୍ଥିକମାନ ବୃଦ୍ଧି ସଙ୍ଗେ ସଙ୍ଗେ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ପ୍ରଗତିରେ ସହାୟକ ହେବ ।

ବୃହତ୍ତର କଟକ ଉନ୍ନୟନ ସଂସ୍ଥା ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ କେତେଗୁଡ଼ିଏ ଉଚ୍ଚ ଅଭିଳଷିତ ପରିକଳ୍ପନା କରିଛନ୍ତି ଏବଂ ସେଥିମଧ୍ୟରୁ କେତେକ ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ପ୍ରଶଂସନୀୟ । ବିଶ୍ୱନାଥପୁର ଗୃହ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯୋଜନା ଏବଂ ଦୁଲଣାପୁର ଗୃହ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯୋଜନା ଦୁଇଟି ଗୃହ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯୋଜନା ଆରମ୍ଭ କରୁଛି । ବିଶ୍ୱନାଥପୁର ଗୃହ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯୋଜନାରେ ୧୦୧ଟି ସ୍ୱଳ୍ପ ଆୟକାରୀ ଲୋକଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ନିର୍ମିତ ଗୃହ ଶେଷ ହେବା ଉପରେ । ସହରର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ସ୍ଥାନରେ ବୃହତ୍ତର କଟକ ଉନ୍ନୟନ ସଂସ୍ଥାଦ୍ୱାରା ମାର୍କେଟଗୃହ ନିର୍ମାଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଅଗ୍ରଗତି କରୁଛି । କଲେଜଛକଠାରେ ନିର୍ମିତ ହେବାକୁ ଯାଉଥିବା ସୁପର ମାର୍କେଟ କମ୍ପ୍ଲେକ୍ସ ଗୋଟିଏ ଉଚ୍ଚ ଅଭିଳଷିତ ଯୋଜନା । ଏକକୋଟି ପଚିଶଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କା ବ୍ୟୟ କରାଯାଇ ସାତ ମହଲା ବିଶିଷ୍ଟ ସୁପରମାର୍କେଟ ନିର୍ମାଣ କରିବା ନିମନ୍ତେ ଅଟକଳ କରାଯାଇଛି । ଏହି ସୁପର ମାର୍କେଟରେ ଦୋକାନ ଘର, ଗୋଦାମଘର, ହୋଟେଲ, ଭୋଜନାଳୟ, ସିନେମାଘର ଏବଂ ଆମୋଦ ପ୍ରମୋଦ ସ୍ଥାନ ରହିବ । ଐତିହାସିକ ବାରବାଟୀ ଦୁର୍ଗ ନିକଟସ୍ଥ ସ୍ଥାନକୁ ଉନ୍ନତ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଗୋଟିଏ ସୁନିର୍ଦ୍ଦିଷ୍ଟ ଯୋଜନା ଏହି ସଂସ୍ଥା ଦ୍ୱାରା ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରାଯାଇଛି । କଟକ ସହରର କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ସ୍ଥଳରେ ଅବସ୍ଥିତ ଜେଲକୁ ସ୍ଥାନାନ୍ତରିତ କରି ସେଠାରେ ସହର ମଧ୍ୟରେ କ୍ଷୁଦ୍ର ସହର ତିଆରି କରିବାର ଯୋଜନା ବାସ୍ତବିକ ପ୍ରଶଂସନୀୟ । କଟକ ଉନ୍ନୟନ ସଂସ୍ଥା ନିକଟରେ ଲେଡି ଡଫ୍ ପାର୍କକୁ ନବୀକରଣ କରିଛନ୍ତି ଏବଂ ଏହା ଗତ ନଭେମ୍ବର ମାସରେ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ନନ୍ଦିନୀ ଶତପଥୀଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଉଦ୍‌ଘାଟିତ ହୋଇଛି ।

କଟକ ଉନ୍ନୟନ ସଂସ୍ଥା ଶଙ୍ଖଭଟ୍ଟନଠାରେ ଗୋଟିଏ ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ସ୍ଥାପନ କରିବାର ପରିକଳ୍ପନା କରିଛନ୍ତି ଏବଂ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକମାନଙ୍କ ସୁଖ ସୁବିଧା ନିମନ୍ତେ ଗୋଟିଏ ଆଧୁନିକ ଧାରାର ହୋଟେଲ ନିର୍ମାଣ କରିବାର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କରାଯାଉଛି । ପୁରୁଣା ସେକ୍ରେଟେରିଏଟ୍ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ଅର୍ଘ୍ୟ ଓ ବାସଗୃହ ଓ ବିଡାନାସୀ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ବାସଗୃହ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯୋଜନାରେ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଭୁକ୍ତ ହୋଇଛି ।

ଉନ୍ନୟନ ସଂସ୍ଥା ଯେ କେବଳ ଧନୀ ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କ ବିଳାସପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଯୋଜନା କରୁଛନ୍ତି ଏହା ନୁହେଁ । ଏହି ସଂସ୍ଥା ସମାଜର ଦୁର୍ବଳତର ଶ୍ରେଣୀର ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ବାସଗୃହ ଏବଂ ଛୋଟ ଦୋକାନୀମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ସ୍ୱଳ୍ପ ଦୋକାନ (Kiosk) ଏବଂ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ଯୋଗାଇ ଦେବାପାଇଁ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କରିଛନ୍ତି । ତେଣୁ ଏହି ସଂସ୍ଥା ସମାଜର ସବୁ ଶ୍ରେଣୀର ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଆଦୃତ ହେବ ଏହା ନିଃସନ୍ଦେହ ।

ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ବୃହତ୍ତର କଟକ ଉନ୍ନୟନ ସଂସ୍ଥା ତରଫରୁ ସମସ୍ତ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକର ଉପସଭାପତିଙ୍କ ନେତୃତ୍ୱରେ ବହୁ ପ୍ରଶଂସନୀୟ ପରିକଳ୍ପନା କରି ସେଗୁଡ଼ିକୁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟରେ ରୂପାନ୍ତର କରିବାକୁ ଉଦ୍ୟମ କରୁଛନ୍ତି ଏବଂ କେତେକ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ନେଇଛନ୍ତି । ଏଥିପାଇଁ ଅନେକ ଅର୍ଥାଭାବ କେତେକ ସମସ୍ୟା ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିଛି । ମୋର ଆଶା ଏବଂ ବିଶ୍ୱାସ ଏହି ସଂସ୍ଥା ଦୃଢ଼କରି ଚାଲିଲେ ଆମେ ଆମର ପ୍ରିୟ କଟକ ସହରର ଚିତ୍ର ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ କରି ଏକ ଭାରତ ପ୍ରସିଦ୍ଧ ଅବର୍ଣ୍ଣନୀୟ ଆଧୁନିକ ସୁସମ୍ପନ୍ନ ନଗରୀରୂପେ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠିତ କରି ପାରିବ । ଏଥିନିମନ୍ତେ ମୁଁ ବୃହତ୍ତର କଟକ ଉନ୍ନୟନ ସଂସ୍ଥା ଏବଂ କଟକ ବାସୀ ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କର ସହଯୋଗ କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

ଭକ୍ତ ମଲ୍ଲିକ



SHRI GANGADHAR MAHAPATRA
MINISTER
FOOD & CIVIL SUPPLIES AND
CULTURAL AFFAIRS & TOURISM
ORISSA

I am glad to know that Greater Cuttack Improvement Trust is publishing a souvenir on the 1st week of April, 1976 to highlight the activities and achivements of this Trust.

Cuttack being both the Cultural and Commercial Centre of Orissa, its development and decency should have a priority in our efforts for better urban life. Its development therefore has to be taken up on priority basis so that our premier city becomes a decent city for better living. The efforts of G. C. I. T. in this direction is commendable.

All concerned Government Departments should co-ordinate their efforts through Greater Cuttack Improvement Trust so that an integrated development is ensured

GANGADHAR MAHAPATRA



SOMANATH RATH
MINISTER OF STATE
HEALTH & FAMILY PLANNING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
ORISSA.

MESSAGE

I am given to understand that the Greater Cuttack Improvement Trust is publishing a Souvenir in the first week of April, 1976 in connection with its activities and programmes. I have every hope that the Souvenir will give to the public a realistic appraisal of the work done and programmed by the Improvement Trust.

As is known, the city of Cuttack needs to be provided with various civic amenities, considering its location and its commercial and historical importance. As such, the city offers opportunities for execution of various remunerative and selffinancing schemes, for its improvement. I expect that GCIT will consider the cost economics of such schemes and ensure appropriate returns by expeditious implementation of the same.

The recent application of the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act of 1976 to Cuttack city and its adjoining areas has given a good opportunity to the GCIT to provide housing facilities for the economically weaker sections by utilisation of vacant housing sites in the area, at reasonable cost. I wish the Trust all success in this and other efforts.

SOMANATH RATH



SHRIBALLAVA PANIGRAHI
MINISTER
REVENUE, ORISSA

MESSAGE

I am glad to know that the Greater Improvement Trust is bringing out a Souvenir during the 1st week of April, 1976.

I wish the Trust all success

S. PANIGRAHI



P. U. OZA,
Executive Director (Development)
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA
BOMBAY-20.

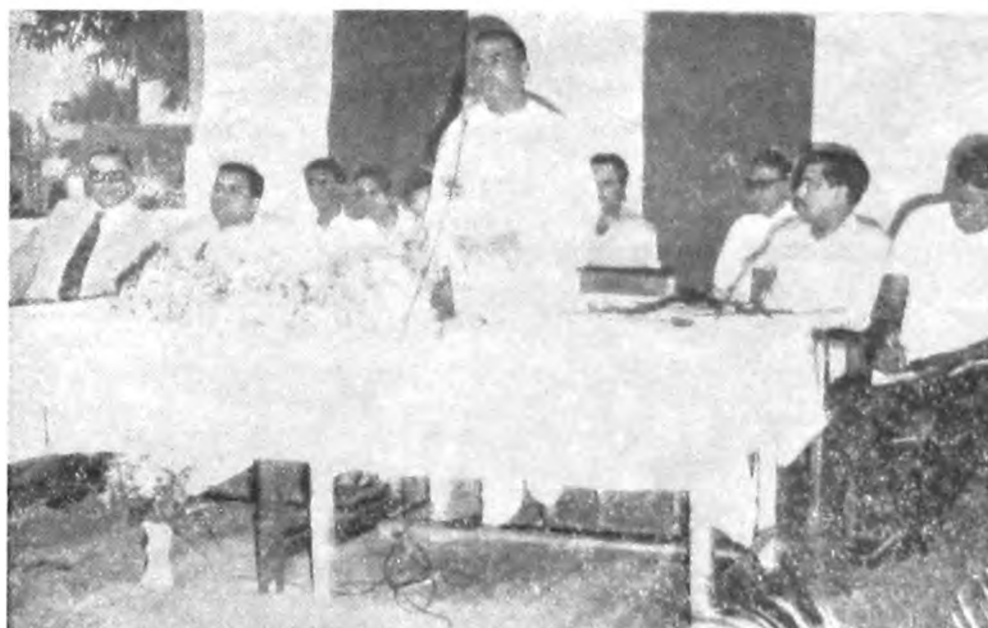
I recently visited Cuttack after an interval of almost two decades and was struck with the need for accelerating the tempo of re-doing the heart of Cuttack. I was, therefore, happy to meet my old friend, Shri N. K. Panda and his colleagues and be educated about the plans and projects of the G. C. I. T.

I find that very often it is even difficult to bring about changes because we are conditioned to believe that an area is backward and the people in the region have less ambitions for change However, the major backwardness is the backwardness of the mind and seeing the work that is already done, on hand and projected, I feel confident that Cuttack's will be a changed face in the course of the next few days. It is, therefore, necessary that the people of Cuttack themselves are involved in this adventure of change and the proposed Souvenir on the "Problems and Prospects of Cuttack" and the exhibition highlighting surveys, Schemes and Projects of the Trust will go a long way in creating the necessary awareness and atmosphere.

P. U. OZA
Chief (Development).



Arunoday Shopping centre at Link Road,
Opened by Srimati Nandini Satpathy, Chief Minister.



Opening of Kiosk by Sri Lakhsman Mullick, Minister,
Works and Rural Development and Agriculture and Co-operation.



Children at play in Lady Hubback Park,
renuovated by G.C.I.T.

About ourselves

"The massive increase in population and rapid urbanisation which are taking place in India for the past few decades call for immediate attention of town planners, economists, social scientists and administrators." —Vagale

Background :

Our urban centres suffer from all types of handicaps not because we do not have plans for them but there is a very real shortage of agencies at the appropriate level which have been assigned clear responsibility for improvement and development work in these areas.

What should be the planning and implementing agency that will help in taking appropriate measures for our towns and cities where essential urban facilities like water supply, drainage and sewerage, housing, transportation and other community facilities which are vital for living are at the reach of a very small minority of people and a vast majority of them live a life which is far away from civilized living ?

There is search for agencies which will shape our towns and cities into economically feasible, physically efficient, administratively viable and above all socially satisfying community.

In this country the earliest attempts at city development came in the form of Improvement Trust that were established under special enactments in Bombay in 1898, Calcutta in 1911 and U. P. in 1919 followed by a number of enactments elsewhere.

The Improvement Trusts were created for specific purposes. Historically it can be traced that in U. K., in the 18th centrury, the old manorial organisations and the chartered boroughs had lost control over the economic life of the localities.

To cope up with the new problems by the provision of the services, removal of refuge, the provision of clean water etc. the leading inhabitants of towns petitioned the Parliament to empower them to act as "Improvement Commissioners" for their towns. This movement gave rise to the creation of "Improvement Commissioners" for towns "Turn Pike Trusts" for main roads and "Commissioners of Drains and Sewers." This movement was ended with the reform of local-self-Government of U. K. taken up in the 19th century.

In India the idea of town improvement was first started with the appointment of sanitary commission in 1864 in the presidencies of Madras, Bengal, and Bombay under directions from the Royal Sanitary Commissioner which had been appointed by the British Government in 1859. "The sanitary commissions were entrusted to give advice and assistance in all matters relating to public health and sanitation, to advise on the sanitary improvement of native towns and prevention and mitigation of epidemic diseases."

The Improvement Trusts were created for the big cities of this country during the early part of the century as a reaction against public health menace and squalor which resulted out of industrial revolution.

The earlier Trusts which exist in almost every major city of India mostly confined itself to limited problems like-road-widening, clearing or improving slums, acquiring, developing and subdividing land, laying out town extentions and soforth but having neither comprehensive development and redevelopment plans nor utilising the services of qualified town and country planners."

The earlier Trusts should not be blamed for failure to do something which they were neither designed nor authorised to do, it would be wrong to think of these earlier trusts as Town Planning Authorities for they lacked some of its essential powers, viz., the power of zoning areas and controlling land use without which physical planning has no meaning. The short-comings in the structure and functioning of Improvement Trusts become apparent with an increase in the rapidity of urbanisation and consequent problems of growing cities. The recent Town Improvement Acts of Bihar, Orissa, and Rajasthan have sought to combine town planning and Improvement Trusts functions under one single legislation with the result that the Improvement Trusts in Bihar and Orissa have been empowered to prepare master plans as well as to enforce them. In Rajasthan however, the power of preparing master plans rests with the Chief Town Planner of the State Government while enforcement and implementation thereof have been entrusted to the Improvement Truts.

The Orissa Town Planning and Improvement Trust Act was enacted in the year 1956. The preamble to the Act makes the objective clear by saying that it is expedient to make provision for the development, improvement and expansion of towns in the States of Orissa, so as to secure to their present and future inhabitants sanitary conditions, amenities and convenience."

The Act envisages that a Municipality or any other area or areas, the Local Authorities having jurisdiction or the Improvement Trust hereinafter constituted under this Act for any particular area or areas shall initiate and prepare a town planning scheme for the said municipality or areas shall be called Town Planning Authorities (hereinafter referred to as the Planning Authority) for the purpose of this Act.

It is clear that the Improvement Trust is a Town Planning Authority constituted for the improvement, development and expansion of towns. To understand the role of a Town Planning Authority the meaning of Town Planning must be made clear. Town Planning is no longer understood, in the limited sense German Town extension plan, the Parisian Boulevard, the English Garden Village, the American Civic Centre and park system. Application of any of the principles

do not plan a town in the truest sense of the term for which Patrick Geddes, the father of City Planning, has rightly insisted on Environment, Function, and Organisation. The Geddesian triad which was later simplified by Professor Abercombie to "Beauty, Health, and Convenience" found a place in the British Town Planning Act as proper sanitary conditions, Amenity and Convenience.

If town planning is to be complete and avoid lopsidedness a just equipoise must be attained between these three.

History alone can say how far we can go and what we can achieve out of this agency, we are sure that we have miles to go and strived hard to reach our goal so that a real urban environment can be shaped which will be "the heart of cultural activity" within its boundaries are found "the institutions, the facilities, the personnel, the atmosphere and the conditions and from which a rich intellectual and cultural life can spring and though it can be promoted and diffused."

Going back to the Origin of the Trust it can be noticed that the Cuttack Improvement Trust was constituted by the State Government vide notification No. 6026/LSG dated the 11-6-63 under the name of "Cuttack Municipal Improvement Trust" with effect from 12-6-63 under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister. The name of the office was changed to "Cuttack Municipality and Choudwar Notified Area Improvement Trust", subsequently vide notification No. 5919/LSG dated. 14-4-65 under the Chairmanship of R. D. C. The State Government vide notification No. 10880/LSG dated 10-6-65 again renamed the Trust As "Greater Cuttack Improvement Trust" Section 8 provides for the constitution of Trust which consist of a Chairman appointed by the State Government, she Chief Engineer, Public Health, Director of Public Health, The Director of Town Planning, Collector Cuttack and Executive Engineer, Cuttack Division. Four persons appointed by the State Government of whom at least two shall be non-officials, Chairman of the Municipalities and the Local authority where the jurisdiction of the Trust extents (Cuttack Municipality, Choudwar Municipality, Gatirout Patna Panchayat, Paramhansa Panchayat, Bidyadharpur Panchayat) Presently the Board of Trustee constitutes of 15 members.

The operation of the Improvement Trust can be discussed under 3 main items-Planning, Execution and Implementation.

Section 29 (I) of the Act makes it obligatory for the Improvement Trust to prepare a Master Plan within 4 years of issue of notification to the effect that town planning Act is in force on an area in case the State Government opines that the Planning Authority is unable to prepare a Master plan the Director of Town Planning on the request of the Planning Authority will prepare a Master Plan.

Through the Trust was constituted from 1963, it had no Master Plan till 1969 to carry on any development activity which is a precondition for undertaking any planned programme perhaps for the reason that "the formulation of a Master Plan is a very difficult and complex affair but in it lies the solution to the present and future growth of the towns. It necessitates the collection of data on the use of land, population, traffic and communication, congetion, commercial and economic potentialities and other basic geographic factors that effect the life of the town."

Vision :

The G. C. I. T. got its Master Plan from Town Planning Organisation in 1968, which is under operation, drawn up by a multidisciplinary team. The Master Plan la a guide-line plan. The Master Plan prepared in the context of our local situation has many objectives but to provide econvenience to the city dwellers is the foremost objective which a town planner always strives hard to provide. In his vision a well-planned Town will be one "with a clear structure whose internal communication system, a well-articulated minor road system within a general framework of the major roads is so designed as to ensure maximum accessibility and minimum congestion and risk. Its pattern and distribution of houses are so designed that homes and open spaces whose juxtaposition improves living conditions are placed together and home and industries whose close contiguity are offensive to sight or smell are separated. Factories are set up so as not to cause any avoidable destruction of beauty or inflication of smoke or contamination of air within a housing district. The arrangement of business quarters, manufacturing districts, railway facilities and residential quarters in such that it saves money to the businessman and enables citizens to move between home and work with least loss of time and energy. The Town centre, schools, playing fields and subsidiary centres for shopping and other facilities are located, designed and related in such a way as to meet fully and conveniently the daily needs of the users. Qpen spaces are so distributed that those who wish to play outdoor games can have a reasonable opportunity of doing so without exhustingly long jurneys while others who want to strol into a park and spend an odd half hour for taking their morning or evening constitucional or enjoying a quiet rest after a hard days' work may do so without going for afield.

The residential area, apart from being separated from industrial, commercial and business areas, would contain houses of such kinds and in such proportions as will enable every family to have a reasonable chance of securing a home of the size and kind it wants whether in houses flats or bunglows. The most important requirement of all is the balancing of the population and employment, which, though more a matter of sound and effective economic policy than of physical planning, is so intimately connected with it what it is hardly possible to consider one without the other. The daily journey to work over long distances of large masses of man causes so much discomfort and inconvenience to those who have to make the journey that unless town planning helps to minimise these ills either by providing more housing space for workers within the town or finding more employment centre in the vicinity of areas where the workers are drawn it may be said to have failed to deal with one of the most cruel and repressive of contemporary ills of modern industrial-cum-commercial society. Visually, the town should, looked from outside, have a pleasing silhouette and clear clean edges without peripheral clutter out the approaches. To put the matter briefly, a town or city should have an opitimum population when it can maintain, avoid a juxtaposition of incompatible uses with work sites separated from residence, but not so far as to require long exhausting journeys, have a rational road system and adequate housing accommodation suitably sited with enough open

space properly distributed for all age groups, and be compact in structure without linear proliferation."—Keeble

The vision of a town planner can be translated into reality only though periodic revision of the Master Plan and preparation of zonal plans and Rehabilitation scheme. Luckily for us Section 34 of the Act provides that the Planning Authority under the framework of the Master Plan initiate different improvement schemes for general improvements, rebuilding, rehousing, street and deffered street development, housing accommodation and other schemes.

Execution :

One of the important committees on urbanisation observed that "everywhere Planning Authorities exist, there is no proper agency for the positive tasks of coordinated development." This administrative vaccum is filled up to some extent as the Revenue Divisional Commissioner, (Central Division) is the Chairman of the Trust and under his Chairmanship Integrated Development Committee has been constituted comprising of officers responsible for executing schemes at Cuttack.

G. C. I. T. has framed a number of schemes of which many are live projects.

Our financial sphere is inelastic one; sources of finance are :

(i) Grant by State Government, Local Authority or any individual.

(ii) A 2% increase in duty on certain transfer of immovable property located inside planning area as per Indian Stamp Act 1899.

(iii) Municipal contribution.

(iv) Loans.

Finance so far has not stood on our way, the schemes and projects framed have been backed by financier institutions for which we are able to formulate a number of schemes and hope to get them executed.

However, in this context it my be said that "A plan for Town, to a very large extent, merely ensures a good relationship between development that would happen in any case and in so far as it does this, a plan costs nothing, beyond the wages of those who make it and administer it" [Proof. Halford.]

Enforcement :

The basic purpose of town and country planning has been to ensure, as far as possible that land is used in the best interests of the community as a whole. Any acceptance of the need for central direction in the use of land is only a first step towards planning.

Regulatory administration requires quite different techniques from those used in managing the service functions. There is one underlaying principle, however, which is common to both fields of administration; primary reliance for securing results must not be placed on the use of a authority or the threat of punishment. The major objective is to see that the regulations are observed and not to see that the citizens are punished for failure to observe the regulations; use of authority is only one of several means for securing the desired results.

As provided in the Act after a notification is made as per Section 30(1) no person "can erect, proceed with any building or work or enter into or carryout a contract in respect of a land within the area included in the Master Plan" without

permission from Planning Authority. Section 32(2) speaks about the duty of the owners of land to ensure that development on their lands are not contrary to the provisions of the Master Plan. No compensation shall be paid for a land and development if it has been done without permission from Planning Authority and which is contrary to provision of Master Plan in the event such land is acquired by Planning Authority for execution of detailed scheme.

It is quite heartening to beneficiaries to note that this Planning Authority provides plan to individuals on application drawn by a qualified team of planners and architects with modest cost and in some free plans are also given. This facility is unique and very few planning Authority in this country provides this.

It is a general feeling that the provision in the Act is very inlent for which the desired results against unauthorised construction is not carried properly and development control is not exercised. Penalty for breach of the provision of the Act is punishable with fine which may extend to one hundred rupees and in case of continuing contravention it may extend to fifty rupees each day. The power of demolit on does not exist in the present Act.

Conclusion :

To fuse community and individual interests in the urban environment requires bold thinking. We have borrowed the ideas of city planning both from the U. K. and the States—the legal systems of both countries are seriously thinking how Town Planning law and property can be moulded into a more rational and effective means for organising the use of land. It is but natural that if planning is to be successful "it must gain acceptance among the persons whose lives and property are to be affected".

We are not only concerned with the present city, we have a long-range target to accommodate the changes We are looking forward to mould our machinery so that as Robson said, "Planning must secure positive control of the whole region whose centre is the great city. It must comprise both town and country in its scope It must prescribe what would be done and not merely what is forbidden".

We are aware of the fact that "Good planning aims at long range and diffused benefits to society but yeilds no immediate dividends, bad planning may". But some tangible benefits are there for all to see.

We have miles to go—we have had, and will have, all the lessons of life—successes and failures but we have to be able to implement all our projects.

"Let us learn from Man's actions in an important scale over the past 10,000 years and we shall be able to implement all our projects even if today they seem as unfeasible as the cathedral did to many people when they were concieved. But the cathedrals were finally built, even if some took several generations to complete. People were able to begin using some small parts of them before they became monuments of great importance".

By N. P. P.—Associate Town Planner

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Urban Situation in India

By D. P. DHAR
Ex-Planning Minister

I am most grateful to Shri Rajni Patel and his colleagues who have done me the honour of inviting me to inaugurate this Seminar. I find it appropriate that, in view of Bombay city's great traditions of civic life, the initiative for organising such a Seminar should have come from men in public life. The galaxy of talent gathered here bears witness to the city's cosmopolitan character. The delibera-tions and recommendations of such a representative and if I may say so—eminent gathering are bound to be given the most serious consideration by the State and the Central Governments.

Having partaken of the city's gracious hospitality many times in the past, my colleagues in the Planning Commission and I, are not unacquainted with Bombay City's problems or their magnitude. If there have been any gaps in our knowledge, these have been thoughtfully filled in by esteemed friends like Sri Naik and Shri Patel. We therefore share your concern ragarding the problems which the city is facing. Indeed as a measure of our awareness and concern for Bomaby city's problems, we have agreed to the appointment of a high level committee to study them. The report of the committee, which is actively engaged in its endeavours, is expected to be available soon.

You are all better acquainted with Bombay's problems than I am. Hence I would not presume to dilate on these problems. I would, however, with your permission, like to talk about the urban situation in India, the problems it poses, and the issues to which all of us must jointly find answers.

The emergence of cities has always been regarded as a forward step in the evolution of mankind. Witness the fact that the word 'city' derives its name from the word 'civitas', i.e. what belongs to civilised men. The fact that men are beginning to have some doubts about the advantages of uncountrolled urban growth is on account of two developments. The first is the growth of slums to house migrants attracted by the possibility of obtaining jobs in industry or commerce. The second is the change in the physical character of cities brought about by the development of motorised transport and mass transit systems. Both these developments are evident in most of our metropolitan cities.

While it is true that India has a tradition of urban living and town planning which goes back to the cities of the cities of the Indus Valley Civilisation, rapid

urbanisation in its present explosive form is a comparatively recent phenomenon. This is indeed also true of the rest of the world and it is pertinent to recall that even in U. S. A., as late as 1880, over 70 per cent of the population was rural. In India during the four decades, 1931-1971, whereas the increase in total population has been of the order of 96 per cent, the increase in urban population has been more than 277 percent. The figures also reveal that larger cities have tended to grow at a faster rate than comparatively smaller urban centres. It is estimated that by 1979 the urban population will reach a figure of 139·5 million. What this means is that over the Fifth Plan period urban population will increase by around 20 million. The significance of these figures needs to be carefully grasped as thay indicate the magnitude of the urban problem which India faces.

A significant portion of the growth of urban population in our country has been on account of the migration from rural areas to the towns. On an average, this has accounted for about 30 per cent of urban growth. The figure is much higher in the case of larger cities like Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras. But the migration from rural to urban areas has not always been brought about by an increase in employment opportunities in industry, commerce or administration. Much of the migration is the product of stagnation and insecurity in the living conditions of the rural poor. These people have come to cities because they have been pushed out of rural areas. In this sense, all our cities, not merely Delhi, are 'refugee cities.' Thus, in India, urbanisation is not entirely the correlate of modernisation and industrialisation but the consequence of outmoded social relations in rural areas. In this sense our cities are parasitic. Their contribution towards the growth potential is often not commensurate with the cost of maintaining them.

Yet we cannot ignore the needs of our cities. But the difficulty is that the provision of even the minimum levels of housing, municipal and social services for the new urban residents of India will require investments of a colossal order. For instance, let us consider housing. It is estimated that the current housing shortage in the urban areas is of the order of 3·1 million houses excluding the replacement requirements of houses which would normally be categorised as slum dwellings. Keeping in view the increase in urban population likely to take place during the Fifth Plan, another four million houses would be required to take care of the population increase. To this must be added one million houses which should be required to replace the more decrepit of the existing stock of 21 million houses. If one computes the cost of eight million houses, adopting a modest figure of Rs. 12,500 per dwelling, the cost would work out to Rs. 10,000 crores. If one adds to this the amounts required on account of land acquisition, provision of water supply, transport and other essential services, the figure would be truly astronomicial.

An important point to remember in connection with financing of the urban sector is that the social and economic costs of servicing large concentrations of population are even more prohibitive than the provision of such services to smaller urban centres. Beyond a certain limit unit costs of providing utilities and services increase rapidly with increase in the size of the cities. In a sense, there is a basic

conflict between private costs and social costs in taking up projects in large urban centres, and we have not yet trained ourselves to taking into account the totality of costs in dealing with projects in the urban sector.

I must also at this stage draw your attention to another paradoxical feature of the urban situation in India. It is recognised that schemes of **urban development should, by and large, be substantially self-financing. To achieve this objective, land could itself be a major resource. Yet the present position is that urban land and property have continued to be the providers of the largest amounts of unearned incomes**. It is equally apparent that much of the new investment in the private sector in urban housing has been made for housing the elite classes. The social benefits of such housing are perhaps negative as it has resulted in diverting scarce resources, financial and material, from projects and schemes deserving a higher national priority. Such housing has also widened the existing gulf between the rich and the poor and thus added to social tensions. The contribution of the private sector to housing bebefitting the low income categories has been negligible.

Before I dwell on some of the policy implications which emerge from the consideration of the urban situation in India, I may be permitted to draw your kind attention to one basic factor which is relevant in viewing the place of the urban sector in economic plans. While increasing attention is being paid to the urban problem in the economic plans of our country, it is obvious that a solution to this problem will not be found by looking at the cities and towns alone. The problem of urban development, through important, has to be viewed as one aspect of the economic development of the country in which there are also other priority sectors such as agriculture, power and irrigation and industry, which have an equal or even more urgent claim on limited resources. Apart from the limitation of financial resources, consideration of availability and requirements of material resources in short supply, such as cement and steel, would also lead us to a similar conclusion, In fact. unless the requirements of these other sectors are met, we cannot solve the urban problem.

In considering the needs and requirements of the urban sector, particularly of large metropolitan cities, one must not also lose sight of the need to develop smaller towns and to provide amenities in the rural areas. The Fifth Plan recognises this in the provision made for the Minimum Needs Programme.

It is well-known that the provision of most amenities such as education, medical care, transport and employment opportunities are already weighed in favour of urban centres in general and large cities in particular. I would, therefore, submit that any pattern of investment which further tilts the balance in their favour would only aggravate their problems by accelerating the process of migration from smaller cities and rural areas to the larger cities. I would hasten to add that in mentioning this position, it is not my intention to minimise in any way the problems of large cities or to advocate inaction. I would also agree that a general prejudice against metropolitan cities may be ill-founded. These cities are crucibles in which traditional attitudes are transformed into a new value system— a modern world view. However, I would like to make the point that any approach

to the solution of the problems of large cities, which is merely based on an "inventory of needs" and is oblivious of the needs of sectors other than the urban sector, and of small towns and rural areas, may not lead us far.

In view of the disproportionate social and economic costs of serving large concentrations of population, the question of evolving and enforcing measures for a more even spread of economic activity throughout the country is of fundamental importance. It is true that we have recognised early in our economic planning the need for a well thought out policy of planned urban growth which distributes growth between towns of different sizes and between towns and villages and works out harmonious relationships between the urban and rural areas. It has also been generally accepted that the continued and unhindered concentration of industrial and commercial activities in the large metropolitan cities is not inevitable and must be countered.

Eventhough these policies have found wide spread support, it has to be admitted that the implementation of the measures directed towards the attainment of the goals of these policies has not been very effective. There are exceptions of course—the notable success achieved by Maharashtra Government in the development of Nasik, Nagpur, Aurangabad and other such towns being ones. Yet, even in Maharashtra, the growth of Bombay and its surrpunding agreas has not come to a halt. I humbly submit that the time has now come to ask ourselves whether in the evolution of policies of industrial or commercial location or in the manner of their implementation, we can really afford to encourage further growth of large urban centres, a growth which will render the solution of their problems well-nigh impossible.

The difficult and growing problems of urbanisation call for a complex and multi-faceted strategy. Perhaps the most important instrument necessary for achieving a break-through in urban development is the formulation of a suitable urban land policy. We are all aware of the manner in which continuous and excessive rise in urban land values, in and around the great urban centres, is posing a serious problem for urban planning and development. It is commonly known that this phenomenon is to a considerable extent due to speculative deals in land, quite often motivated by the desire to evade taxes. Thus, on the one hand, unearned capital gains accrue to private individuals, and on the other, there is a shortage of resources for projects of urban development which are in part responsible for these increases in land values.

Thus, the general public and the government bear the cost of development and a few individuals, who own land, reap the benefits. In such a situation, we have to ask ourselves a number of questions. Is it possible for us to make a dent in urban problems in our country, particularly the need for housing the poor, within the matrix of present urban land relationships ? Is there not an urgent need for a package of policy instruments, consisting of legal, fiscal and development measures, which will ensure that the use of urban land subserves important objectives ? I would submit that there is a pressing need for the formulation and implementation of an urban land policy which will be directed to the attainment of the following objectives.

Firstly, to promote optimum use of land Secondly, to make land available for purposes, consistent with economic growth and social policy, to different sections of the community, and in particular to the weaker sections, Thirdly, to reduce and, if possible prevent concentration of land ownership, speculation and rising land values, and Fourthly, to allow land to be used as a resource for financial urban development.

Since rapid urbanisation in the developing countries is a very recent phenomenon, much of the literature which is available on the subject is based on the experience of the developed countries. Most of this experience is not relevant to the developing countries, where the problem is far more acute and where the resources to tackle these problems are far more limited. Take the case of housing. We cannot afford to follow architectural styles and building practices developed in the richer countries. We have to recognise that our climatic conditions are different that there are local materials and local skills which can and must be used, that we are too poor to afford the sort of standards that prevail in the rich countries. Mass housing in India will have to be low-cost housing I would urge our architects, engineers and builders to divert their energies towards this end.

In all aspects of the urban problem, whether it is the problem of urban land and housing or urban transportation or urban administration, there is need for an innovative approach suitable to our conditions. Our cities, which at the moment are painful reminders of the tensions and scarcities of underdevelopment must become bright and visible symbols of modernisation and of the urge for a better life—a better life not merely for the selected few but for all. I am sure that this conference will bring to bear upon the problems of this great city, a freshness and originality of approach, unfettered by past patterns of development or apriori considerations.

I wish the conference all success in its deliberations. Thanking the organisers once agein for having given me the opportunity of associating myself with this endeavour, I have great pleasure in inaugurating this conference.



A Rapidly changing City

By Padmabhusan
SRI KALINDI CHARAN PANIGRAHI

"Old order changeth yeilding space to new"

There is an English saying that nature delights in change. Indeed we experience it ourselves from our daily life. But when the change is sudden and somewhat violent we call it revolution. The Sun does not rise or set at the same point every day. A progressive city or a country is bound to change its appearance if citizens or countrymen require to live a natural life as against artificial-modern as against antic. Cuttack is a historic city of Orissa bearing the marks of many a battle in the past faught against invaders.

I read a story the other day in Soviet Literature. A Moscowvite has been so much used to changes in the appearance of that great international city that he or she finds it difficult after a few weeks' absence to spot out their old house, where they were born and bread.

Falling in love :

This state of affair is not uncommon in Washington too. An American Journal relates that while walking hand in hand a fairly grown up couple having two college students as their own son and daughter, could not recognise themselves and felt, as it were, falling in love with one another for the first time. It sounds like the story of the "Dwarf and the Moon" when we think of our little town Cuttack. But Cuttack, although too small to stand in comparison, carries a history which is no less old or even older than Moscow or Washington. Besides, the inhabitants of Cuttack have similar qualities, if not qualifications, of citizenship as compared with capital cities of advanced states.

We are used to prefer to remain stuck to the life that we have started to live from the days of our child-hood. It is embarrassing for the present writer to realise truly the feelings of those who are born and bred in independent India.

It is equally interesting, if not embarrassing, to study the rapidly changing attitude of the citizens of indepent India towards their neighbours and also their

own countrymen while remembering the well-knwon commentment of Lord Jesus—"Love thy noighbour."

Historic links :

It must be admitted that Indian History is as hoary as that of any other country on the earth. But we have been so much stuck to the old order that it becomes absolutely difficult, if not impossible, to yield space to the new order. We do not recognise the rapid change that takes place in the world around—that the Vedic, or pre-Vedic or even post-Vedic sanctions of cast and colour have gone back to the wall. The custom has absolutely lost its past as well as future being a shamelessly rotten and a dangerous canker for any healthy and progressive social order—so also the creeds or the so-called speciality, if the present writer is permitted to express an unbiased free opinion.

We cannot but agree that there is an astonishingly rapid and absolutely strong competition going on the world over, starting since long from the coloured people-mainly the black Negroes and the Red Indians. Besides mankind as a whole has started a rapid race of competition to go ahead of one people from the other, with the quickest of speed which means progress in the present context.

Born and bread in this almost unknown spot called Cuttack over the globe, we cannot avoid to keep some pace with the present speed and progress. Any conscientous person is bound to admit this. It is inconvenient, however, to be used to the sudden changes of construction. But we cannot but remember that leading cities, quite old for some centuries back, have been remodelled and rebuilt. Naturally being the old capital of Orissa—Cuttack was the real centre of our cultural activities although Konark, Puri and Bhubaneswar bear the trade-mark of our historical eminance in the world over.

State Recognition :

Orissa itself could received the recognition of a separate state only about a decade before Indian independence, when Cuttack was the centre of political and cultural activities. Besides the names of different streets of Cuttack mark the races of different states of India having some cottage industries with the internationally famous filigree works, of its own that attracted the world market.

It is expected that Cuttack should lead the state both in cultural activities and industry like its unique workmanship in the home craft of Filigree. At the same time it should lead in the social sphere too. Any sacrifice to rebuild Cuttack as an ideal city must not be considered too great in the opinion of the present writer.

"Gyanarun" the first Oriya literary journal published from the first prest in Orissa, probably the Mission Press at Cuttack, shed the rays of new sunrise in the last century which came to my notice, some thirty years back. It would serve as a valuable document for research at the present moment.

Greater Cuttack :

The Greater Cuttack Improvement Trust has drawn up an absolutely realistic-Scheme for Sikharpur and Tulsipur Housing Accommodation. It was long

awaited in consideration of the expansive large areas left for housing and up-to-date marketing purposes both for persons coming under the economically weaker section and also lower income groups. The Scheme is as realistic as commendable.

New construction for sectoral markets at College Square behind Darpani Compound as proposed by the Trust will certainly meet the longfelt need of the people. The Buxibazar Auxiliary Market Building and Supper Market-Cum-Office Complex together with the Barabati Development Scheme carry one's imagination really to a dreamland.

Relocation of the Cuttack Jail, Parks, Traffic Island, and Traffic Lights and the proposal for setting up a Cuttack Cultural Centre in the Saheed Bhawan; the truck terminal station, the link road development scheme are all the more laudable.

New City at sight :

A historic city like Cuttack without having a decent hotel for Foreign and Indian visitors is a longfelt want. This has not escaped the notice of the Greater Cuttack Improvement Trust. To work out the Schemes as quickly as possible would certainly give a presentable modern appearance to this old neglected historic city.

It is already conspicuous that this scheme is not going to lie in the papers only but is coming out quickly to the public sight.

The present writer feels, as an inhabitant, a new wave in the atmosphere of Cuttack which brings about a conspicuous change in the entire mental atmosphere. A new sense of citizenship is growing with a definite goal for the feeling of brotherhood among the citizens and it is strengthening day-by-day to overcome all obstacles for the improvement of the city.

A spirit of sacrifice :

The people of Cuttack are as antic in their outlook as they are ultramodern too. An era of close brotherhood is growing, as it were, as we are experiencing the new developments taking place in almost each and every street corner of this old city. It becomes at times almost unrecognisable overnight with new construcation of markets and witdening of streets.

It goes without repealing that no sacrifice on the part of the citizans of Cuttack, whether voluntary or compulsory, can be considered too great for rebuilding the city. It should be our privilege to contribute in every shape for the rebuilding of the city and thereby reforming our own selves both mentally and physically.



Perspectives
For Cuttack's Development

By SHRI N.K. PANDA, I.A.S.
Commissioner, Central Division
and Chairman, Greater Cuttack Improvement Trust

"We cannot throw out old cities. Only planners can save us"

-- ULLMAN

The above statement is an apt one for Cuttack and its development. The first need of Cuttack is the up-dating of the Master Plan which was prepared in 1968. Having provided for the minimum structural changes necessary we may then work out the Zonal Plans. Based on these zonal plans rehabilitation schemes can, thereafter, be drawn up. Among the structural changes necessary would have to be the provision for an outer ring road, an inner ring road, and radial roads connecting them up. Other-wise in not too distant a future, Cuttack will have to be kept as a vehicle-free city and cars, rickshaws etc. will have to be parked outside the city while all of us negotiate it on hired cycles !

Relocation :

Relocation of the existing institutions is essential. The most ambitious of such concepts relates to the shifting of the Cuttack Jail from the heart of the city to the periphery on the Cuttack-Bhubaneswar Road. Other examples should be relocation of the garages now chocking the city with dead and dying vehicles, shifting of R. T. O's office to the Link Road, shifting of the State Transport and O. R. T. garages and transport Companies to the outskirts of the city. These examples can be multiplied.

Commercial Sector :

It has often been stated that our inability to provide commercial facilities leads to indiscriminate encroachments. But this is only partially true in as much as 70% of our people live below the poverty line and no matter how many commercil sectors are being provided, the paths will get cluttered up unless there

is a clear administrative will to keep them out. However, this adds a new dimension to the planning of commercial sector of the city. The most ambitious of these schemes relates to the Buxibazar Super Market. The auxiliary market which will house the existing Buxi Bazar units is now complete It is expected that by end of May 1976, Buxi Bazar Market as it is known now would have vanished making way to building machinery engaged in erecting the Buxi Bazar Super Market.

Besides, a link road scheme has been envisaged where there will be residential and commercial accommodation. To limit the expenditure of the G.C I.T. it has been decided that those land-owners who fall in with the pattern of development visualised for this area will be allowed to construct their buildings as per our plan. This is an uncommon gesture of compromise which has been greatly appreciated by the residents.

In addition to these larger ventures, Sectoral markets (more than 10) will be set up in the zones of the Cuttack City as contemplated in the Master Plan. Besides 1000 Kiosks will be set up all over the city for which designs and estimates have already been made and funds available. Groups of Kiosks are also being made in selected areas such as Cuttack Collectorate.

Redeployment of certain key areas :

Redeployment of certain key areas will also be linked up with the growth of commercial sectors, for example, G.C.I.T. has made surveys of the Cantonment and Old Secretariat areas. These surveys have been forwarded to the Government and it has been requested that the G.C.I.T. may be authorised to develop these areas. This position in now accepted. A commercial centre has been planned at the crossing of the Old Secretariat and Cantonment Roads behind an arcade and plantation of trees, further on there will be office space which will accommodate all the existing offices and have spare accommodation for commercial offices and others interested. The project report in now under study by the Lead Bank.

Relocation of Jail is an example of redeployment of key areas and provision of marketting and other facilities. It is intended to build these 28 acres as a city within a city, as Padmabhusan Shri K. C. Panigrahi has said.

Residential Facilities :

Cuttack has long outlived its residential facilities available to house its residents. It is unfortunate that this basic aspect has not been kept in view. If things are not planned from now on, even in rainy and winter seasons, our economically weaker section, will be sleeping on pavements in large number as seen in Calcutta. Two residential schemes have been planned by G.C.I.T. where economically weaker sections have large segments. These are Sikharpur Housing Accommodation and Tulsipur Housing Accommodation Schemes.

Sikharpur Housing Accommodation Scheme :

Total estimated cost	Rs. 332·65 Lakhs
Total No. of Plots	1665
Total No. of Houses	1500

Tulsipur Housing Accommodation Scheme :

Total estimated cost	Rs. 250·00 Lakhs
Estimate of the first phase	Rs. 32·75 Lakhs
Total No. of Houses	122

In the latter scheme revised sanction order from Government is expected for a meagre amount of Rs. 2·5 Lakhs. Alternatively, the G.C.I.T. will have to bear it in the interest of housing of Government servants. The latter scheme is an unusual one in two senses (1) It is meant for Government servants and (2) that it is a rental housing scheme and not one of ownership. HUDCO have made 2 exceptions for us.

The L.I.C. has expressed its willingness to finance housing schemes for Government servants and Non-Government servants provided we come through the Apex Housing Society which has to be revitalised. The ideal solution will be to link it up with the relocation of Jail which will give us 28 acres of land in the heart of the city. Here flats for Government servants and flats for Non-Government servants can be linked up schematically and the whole area can be developed in the style of a condominium, that is, city within a city providing for all its needs.

The G.C.I.T. can take up many more schemes provided all concerned assist us in finalising the scheme in hand so that our capability is increased and is seen to be of an order to convince the parties to finance us. Besides slum clearance and rehousing (whether it is provision of site and services or their total relocation and replanning) may be left to the G.C.I.T. So far slum clearance has not been seen anywhere to be a commercial venture. So this will need total subsidy.

Work Bases :

It will be seen that our future planning of the Old Secretariat area and the construction of the Buxi Bazar Super Market would provide adequate work bases. Wise choice of the location of work bases is essential taking the ancillary needs into account so as to ensure integrated development. A systematic effort has to be made to rehabilitate the existing units and to relocate them with a view to integrated planning and development and also external economics.

In this connection a special mention must be made of a SUB PLAN FOR JAGATPUR. This area is fast developing as Industrial area and it will be unwise, indeed, uneconomical, to leave it to private parties to develop this area. As such a Sub-Plan has been prepared with the assistance of the Director of Industries, Collector, Cuttack and the Expert Team available with the G.C.I.T.

Basic Amenities :

The basic grievance of the average Cuttack citizen relates to the provision of basic amenities. There is no question that in this regard Cuttack lags behind most other cities both in Orissa (Rourkela) and in the Country. There is considerable gap, for example, in providing latrine and lavatory facilities. It is strange that building plans are sanctioned without provision of such basic facilities. This is just an example; it can be, and will be, multiplied in the following paragraphs.

The ideal conceptual frame-work for the provision of basic amenities should be in the form of net-work of facilities. The facilities are inter-dependent and minimal facilities should never be denied to the citizens of the city no matter what they cost. To begin with let us consider the Drainage, Sewerage and Water Supply Scheme. So far spasmodic efforts have been made which do not form an integrated plan; instead of these piece-meal efforts it will be better to have a Master Plan prepared either by the Public Health Engineering Organisation or a firm of international reput. Till such time all work being carried or under Drainage, Sewerage and Water Supply should be stopped. The first rain always shows the importance of drainage in Cuttack especially if we remember what the Master Plan says that in most places the level of the city is lower than the lavel of the rivers. Incidentally, instead of filling up the ponds those can be developed for pisciculture also to reduce the mosquito menace. In spite of our best efforts and perhaps efforts of the Director of Health Services it has so far not been possible to have anti-malarial focal sprays and the mosquito menace is on the increase.

The provision of a Star-Hotel is a must. For this a site has been provided and parties have been invited to come up for negotiation. Indeed All-India Organisations of repute in the Hotel ludustry have also been invited. The party is being chosen by the G. C. I. T. on competitive basis. The Master Plan envisages a Truck Terminal near the Mahanadi bridge, A party is prepared to set this up along with a motel and service garage which will have ancillary facilities. Negotiations are on the way to set up a truck terminal and motel.

Efforts were being made to introduce Auto-Rickshaws in Cuttack. So far, inspite of our best efforts the authorities concerned with the grant of licences have granted a few licences only. It is doubtful if a small number could have an impact on the transportation system in the city. It is generally agreed that there is need to introduce speed in the transport of the city to clear up its present congestion. Effort was made to introduce mini-buses. But this was found to be uneconomical. Therefore it was decided that mini-buses which have permits for Cuttack district and start from Cuttack City on the first leg of their journey must do one round in the city of the inner ring road. It was also felt that 20 more mini-buses may be given such licences. So far it has not been possible for the Reginoal Transport Authority to implement it fully due to lack of enterpreneurs. But five are in evidence.

The G. C. I. T. is now considering to introduce 50 Auto-rickshaws irrespective of the loss to be sustained by them in the interest of Cuttack People.

Among amenities badly needed by the citizens of Cuttack one must include wider with foot paths. A simple concept would be to widen the roads from one end to other even though houses are not broken (it must be added that many of the houses have a few feet of encroachment especially on roadside lands). The telephone and telegraph poles have to be shifted. Repeated requests by us have not succeeded in achieving this simple objective. When roads are 'tarmarced' from end to end and existing drains covered by slabs not only foot paths will be provided but effectived road space would be increased by 4 to 6 feet.

There is no gainsaying that if encroachment are evicted on the analogy of Bhubaneswar the effective road space would be more and traffic bazards would be less. Revenue encroachments, I understand, are ready for eviction, Municipality is functioning in this regard effectively. Other authorities have not given requisitions in full. The basket-sellers and the bamboo—and—sack type encroachers have replaced others vacated. There are those for whom no encroachment case need be started. There are fixed hours for Trucks and Bullock-carts. The last line in chain of development is the police-man. Subtained and frequent drives to check traffic and allied offences are essential and are being carried out.

Among facilities which are easy to deride (but difficult to provide) are swimming and boating. Government have sanctioned Rs. 2·50 lakhs for a swimming pool inside the Barabati Stadium, of which Rs. I lakh is being made available. It has now been decided that the G. C. I. T. will undertake this work and carry it forward to a successful conclusion. We are indenting 2 boats which will be housed near the Orissa Sports Council Offices within the Stadium after the Central Inland Fisheries organization vacate the premises. The tanks inside the Fort area will be cleared (indeed all tanks should be cleared so that mosquitoes are reduced). One must not forget the unavoidable basic facility, viz., the crematorium. The Rotary Club had offered to instal an electric crematorium. But on hearing the cost they have not renewed their request. The estimated cost of an electric one as provided by Brown and Bovary is Rs. 4,53,000/-. Modern non-electric ones are being planned.

Parks etc :

The G. C. I. T. is providing for the present, the facilities of 3 parks for the citizens of Cuttack. The Municipality has agreed to set up 2 parks for the citizens of Cuttack. They have also agreed to improve the Gopabandhu Park. In these parks, statues of important leaders would be installed. Private parties had offered to set up parks but many of them have now backed away and it is not intended that this matter should be pursued. Peter Drucker had said that private enterprise has a public purposes. Not around town anyway.

Barabati Fort :

A special scheme has been made out for the development of Barabati Fort area in view of its historical importance and in view of the fact that the entire Cuttack city has no breathing space as things stand at present. The Scheme consists in essence of large-scale plantation of trees, provision of a boating club, provision of holiday homes, museum, a restaurant and a children's zoo. Government are being requested that when the life period of the houses within the Barabati Fort area are completed these houses will be demolished without exception. The entire area should be given over to historical and architectural preservation and development of facilities for passive recreation. The Central Inland Fisheries Research organization are on their way out.

Traffic Islands and Lights :

6 sets of traffic lights have been purchased by G. C. I. T. and installed under the advice of D. I. G. Central Range by the 1st week of July. 11 traffic Islands are to be re-modelled. The first one taken up was Nayasarak Island where unfortunately the usual clash of interests delayed its completion. The second Island in view is Dolamundei Island which is a logical sequence from Link Road development. It is being paid for by G. C. I. T. The Link Road would be cleared of all congestion in a matter of hours if every one did his job. The mini-buses and taxis should also be moved to the other side of the Link Road.

Cuttack Cultural Centre :

A proposal has been mooted by the G. C. I. T. to set up a Cuttack Cultural Centre in the Saheed Bhawan. The first and second floors of the Saheed Bhawan are now free. It is confidently expected that the setting up of a Cultural Centre which will consist of e.g., a history of freedom movement of Orissa, an art gallery, headquarters for socio-cultural organisations and holding of cultural functions will be done this month; all these will be partly financed by donations. The G. C. I. T. will be able to maintain it by hiring it out for cultural functions.

Pre-requisites of success :

There are only two pre-requisites for the success of G. C. I. T. and others engaged in re-building the city and bringing it in tune with modern conditions :—

(1) That the finances of G. C. I. T. should be put on a sound footing. The sums owed by Municipalities, etc to G.C.I T. are being repaid. Besides, on the analogy of Delhi Development Authority being funded Rs. 10 crores, a funding proposal of G. C. I. T. by Rs 1 crore is also pending. Land should be provided to G. C. I. T. free of salami as an in-built subsidy.

(2) The second requirement is that of unified control over Cuttack's development. It was noticed in C. M. D. A. Calcutta that while CMDA controls all technical officers and staff working in Calcutta Metropolitan district, the Improvement Trusts are agencies for carrying out CMDA projects and the Municipalities have been kept under supersession. The above is a statement of fact. It is requested that officers working in Cuttack, for example Executive Engineers, should be brought under the administrative control of the G. C. I. T. Their programmes have to be devetailed.

Policing of the city :

The D. I. G., Centeral Range and S. P. Cuttack are looking to the policing arrangements and are organising these steadily. The organisational setup may require scrutiny on the lines of bigger metropolitan cities.

Municipality ;

The Municipality has prepared a programme of work for the years 1975-76 to 1978-79. This programme has to be devetailed with programmes of G. C. I. T, and also those of other organisations concerned with Cuttack's development and

maintenance. There is now a Committee for the integrated development of Cuttack City presided over by the Revenue Divisional Commissioner who is also the Chairman of the Greater Cuttack Improvement Trust.

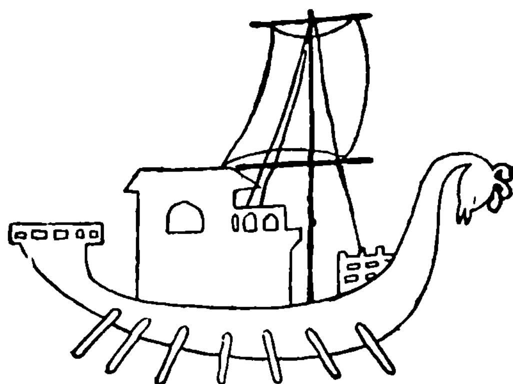
World Bank Loan Cuttack-Bhubaneswar link :

A case is being made out for World Bank loan for Cuttack as a satellite city to Calcutta. Calcutta Master Plan envisages the setting up of satellite cities in Eastern Zone to provide counter-magnets. The question is as to whether this counter-magnetism will be provided by Cuttack alone or Cuttack-Bhubaneswar together. Several proposals have been made to link up the Cuttack city with the Capital. The most important aspect relates to diesel car services and increased bus transportation. Two Collectors have also been requested to locate as many institution on Cuttack-Bhubaneswar belt as possible. We are also attempting to develop Phulnakhara by setting up an industrial estate there. A new design for this industrial estate is being made to provide for a commercial segment.

Separately, proposal has been mooted for the creation of a Capital Region Development Authority (CARDA) on the analogy of the CMDA whose jurisdiction will stretch from Choudwar all the way to Dhauligiri and Khandagiri.

It is usually the developing areas that do not know their achievements and do not capitalise on their culture and heritage. I understood from one of our senior-most officers that Ravenshaw College figures high in the list of Colleges in India for acceptance abroad of degrees etc. The Boat in which Chichester travelled round the world was made in Puri, Orissa. This officer had given a prize to a Oriya film in 1968 in Dublin. Those of us who have travelled abroad know that there are highly placed Oriyas every-where. Limitations are self imposed. Inner pride is the seed of a people's development.

There is a tide in the affairs of man. Opportunity does not knock twice. An unparelled opportunity has been offered to all of us to join hands in rebuilding this beloved old city. Let us then get together and 'conspire' to grasp 'this sorry state of things entire' and rebuild it 'nearer to our heart's desire'.



Stategies For Slum Clearance

By SHRI R.M. VATS
Commissioner, Land and Housing
Delhi Development Authority,
Vikhash Bhavan ; New Delhi.

Culture may suggest agriculture, but civilisation suggests the city. For in the city are gathered the wealth and brains produced in the conntry-side; in the city invention and industry combine to multiply comforts, luxuries and leisure, in the city traders meet and barter goods and ideas, in that crossed fertilisation of minds at the cross-roads of trade intelligence is sharpened and stimulated to creative power. In the city, men feel free to produce Science and Philosophy, literature and art. Civilisation, it has been rightly said, begins in the peasant's hut but it comes to flower only in the town. Let us turn the coin and have a look at the other side. It is in these cradles of civilisation that humanity gets delumanised and de-personalised. It is here that greed breeds and flurishes. It is here that the most heinous crimes are perpetrated and in-equities tolerated. It is here that de-valuation of values takes place and man gets turned into commodity. It is here that a great mass of humanity lives under most appalling conditions. The city is at once the hope and despair of man-kind. To millions, our Urban Industrial Civilisation offers prosperity and comforts of all kind. To millions, however, it offers neither two square meals nor a proper place to live. In some of the world capitals, not far away from the modern airports, where the latest Jamboo Jets land or from the posh tourist hotels and spacious Bungalows of the rich and newrich and ultra-modern sky scrapers, a vast multitude of people live in slumps, shanty towns, shack towns and in squatters' colonies.

2. May we first ask and try to answer the question, "what constitutes a Slum ?" It would, perhaps, be not an over simplification, if we say that slum is nothing but an area of sub-standard housing. If a more compendious definition is required, we might refer to a UNESCO document which defines a Slum "A building, a group of buildings or area characterised by over-crowding, deteriora-

tion, un-sanitary conditions or absence of facilities or amenities which, because of this condition or any of them, endanger the health, safety or morals of its inhabitants or the community." Some Sociologists describe slum as an area of sub-standard housing conditions within a city. According to them, a single neglected building even in the worst stage of deterioration cannot be called a slum.

3. Slum is something more than a "depressed" area. Let us go to "Chawl" in Bomby or "Basti" in Calcutta, a "Cheris" in Madras or a "Kattra" in Old Delhi. Decay and decline, neglect and disorder are writ large on the buildings and streets. The inhabitants belong to the lowest income group. Buildings are overcrowded; streets are not paved. Both have the lowest standard of sanitation. Understandably, these are areas of high sickness and death rate. These areas may not be the habitats of successful or notorious criminals but marginal types of fugitives from law seek and find shelter there. Before they depart, they leave a legacy of vice and delinquency for the slum dwellers. People living in slums, particularly in big cities, are often strangers to one another and are socially isolated from the rest of community. The Slum, in a nutshell, is an area of darkness, despair and poverty.

4. May we now pause to find out how and why sub-standard area of housing or slums spring up and come to stay? In his widely read book "The City in History", Lewis Mumford traces the origin of slums to the urban complex which came into existence in the wake of Industrial Revolution. The factory, the railroad and the slum cropped up side by side Space left over between factories, sheds and rail yards was used for Workers' quarters' of the back to back type. The Cellar which earlier accommodated privies and pigsties, were now the abodes of human beings. In the industrial city, which was the prodnct of free enterprise era, the movement of engines and trains was more important than the heart beats of human beings who moved them. Similar type of sub-standard housing came up during the middle of the 19th Century in Berlin, Vienna, New York and Paris. Mumford's description of the early slum is brought to life by Engels in his famous classics "The Condition of Working Class in England in 1844" "In London", Engels write, "Fifty thousand human beings get up in the morning not knowing where they are to lay their heads at night. The luckiest of this multitude who succed in keeping a penny or two until evening enter a lodging house, such as abounds in every great city, where they find a bed. But what a bed! These houses are filled with beds from Cellar to garret, 4, 5 or 6 beds in a room; as many as can be crowded in. Into every bed 4, 5 or 6 human beings are piled, as many as can be packed in, sick and well, young and old, drunk and sober, men and women, just as they come indiscriminately." "And those who cannot pay for such a refuge? They sleep where they find a place, in passages, arcades, in corners where the police and the owners live them undisturbed."

These were the conditions created by the Industrial order in which workers came to regarded as a commodity Slums now exist in almost every city of the World—an inevitable consequence of industrialisation and urbanisation. In fact, few countries deny their existence.

5. Back home, we find Slums in almost every city. At the dawn of inde-

pendence, there were hardly any employment opportunities in the countryside. With industrialization, people in the villages had to choose between houses without meals and meals without proper shelter. Perforce, they had to choose the later course. They found shelter in whatever accommodation was available or could be expeditiously erected with the materials they could afford. Consequently, Slumsb ecame super Slums, vacant lands in various Cities got dotted with "Jhuggies." The migrant of population, unfortunately, did not get evenly distributed. A disproportionately greater number flocked to what are called millionmark cities— Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore, the twin cities of Hyderabad—Secunderabad, Delhi, Kanpur and Ahmedabad—because employment opportunities were greater there even though chances of getting shelter were meagre. From 144 in 1956-57, the number of slum areas in Bombay arose to 320 in 1968 and in Madras it increased from 189 in 1933 to 548 in 1961 inspite of three decades of efforts to solve the problem. In Delhi, one out of every four persons lives in "Kattras" and "Bustees." In Calcutta, the situation is still worse—the city is now called one big "Hustee." Often 200 persons share a single water tap. The situation in other big cities need not be described. The stark fact is that slums of the worst type exist. They offend the eye, the nose and also the conscience but they are there. Are we going to accept this as an inevitable phenomenon ? The answer surely is 'No'. What, then, are the remedies ?

6. Due to market mechanism and other factors, the private owners of 'Kattras', 'bustees' and Slums of various types are not interested either in their removal or improvement. Efforts have been, and are being, made solely by the Government for amelirATion of the lot of Slum and Jhuggi dewllers. Let us see what has been done so far. The Improvement Trusts set up by various State Governments made efforts for the clearance of slum by developing new areas. In January 1960 the Central Government made a start with Delhi and approved a Scheme known as 'Jhugie Jhonpri Remaval Scheme.' Under this Scheme 80 sq. yds.-plots with individual latrines and bathing platform with water taps were to be developed. The plots were to squatters on lease hold basis. Under this Scheme, 2 room tenements in double storyed blocks could also be constructed. This scheme was revised in 1968. Keeping in view the fact that the allotment of plots on lease hold basis led in many cases to the transfer of plots to others, it was decided by the Government that these plots may be given on rent. A monthly rent of Rs. 8 - was payable by those whose income was upto Rs. 250/- per month and Rs. 14/- by those whose income was more than this. Keeping in view the scarcity of land, the size of the plot was reduced to 25 sq. yds. In Delhi alone, till March, 1975 over 50,000 tenements have also been constructed. Another 40,000 plots are being developed under the 20-Points Economic Programme of the Prime Minister.

7. The Central Government, in the meanwhile, also formulated a scheme known as 'Slum Clearance Improvement Scheme'—This Scheme envisaged re-housing of Slum dwellers at or near the existing site to the extent possible. The emphasis was also on provision of minimum standard of environmental hygiene and essential services so that the rents may remain within the paying capacity of

the occupants. Like the previous Scheme, this Scheme was also to be implemented by the State Governments. The Central Government provided financial assistance by way of 37·5% of the cost as subsidy and 50% as loan repayable in 30 years. The balance cost i.e. 12·5% was to be spent by these State Governments in the form of subsidy. The ceiling cost of the plots to be developed was Rs. 18·50. The occupants, if sweepers, were to pay Rs. 6/- per month as rent and others were to pay Rs. 7/- per month. Under this Scheme, two-room double storeyed houses, two room multi-storeyed houses on a floor area of 188 sq. ft. and 2 room double storeyed as well as 2 room multi storeyed on an area of 280 sq. ft could also be constructed. The scheme also provided for construction of multi storeyed Hostel accommodation and multi storeyed Darmetry accommodation. The rents payable by the occupants were nominal : Rs. 6/- for the open developed plot, Rs. 21/- for a small two room house, Rs. 24·50 for a two room mulit storeyed house, Rs. 30/- for a bigger size two room house and Rs. 34·50 for a bigger two room house in a multistoryed building The rent for accommodation in the Hostel was Rs. 16/- per month and in the Dormetry Rs. 13/- per month. Nearly 85,000 tenements were constructed under this Scheme by the end of 1971 at a cost of Rs. 60 crores. The present number should bo much higher.

8. A Scheme known as Integrated Subsidised Housing Scheme for Industrial Workers and Economical Weaker Section of Community was also formulated by the Central Government in 1967. This Scheme also provides for development of open plots and construction of similar type of tenements as under the Slum Clearance and Improvements Scheme. The ceiling cost and the rents fixed under this Scheme was more or less similar.

9. Keeping in view the high construction costs and scarcity of land, the policy makers have veered round the view that the total clearance of slums within a specified period would be impossible. It has been felt that minimum liveable conditions should be provided to people living in slums and jhuggies pending their resettlement at other places. Based on this assumption the Government formulated a Scheme in April 1972 known as 'The Environmental Improvement Programme'. Initially, it was in the Central Sector but was transferred to the State Sector in the Fifth Five Year Plan. The Scheme was started in 10 States covering cities with a population of 8 Lakhs or more but has now been extended to cities with a minimum population of 3 Lakhs. The objectives of the programme are :—

(a) Sanitisation of the Slums,

(b) Provision of water taps, sewerage and slum water drains, electric lights, brick pavements, community baths and latrines, widening and paving of existing lanes.

Under this Scheme an expenditure of Rs. 150/- per capita can be incurred. Thus in an average Slum or Jhuggi Jhonpri colony a sum of Rs. 7·50 per family can be spent for the provision of these civic amenities. Cent-per-cent grant is given by the Central Government for improvement works. This has gone a long way in improving the living conditions in Slum and Jhugi Jhonpri colonies.

10. It will be seen from these Schemes that serious efforts have been made to contain the problem of Slums and Jhuggi Jhonpri colonies. In the last analysis, the main reason for the existence and growth of slums is the poverty of the inhabitants. It is not merely a question of improving their physical environment but also their economic condition. The remedy, therefore, lies in the whole-hearted implementation of 20 Points Economic Programme of the Prime-Minister and rallying behind the call 'Garibi Hattao' given by her sometime back.



Problem of Encroachment

By SHRI N. SENAPATI, I.C.S. (Retd.)

After seeing what has happened to Bhubaneswar in the course of 28 years I have no faith in urban development. An Improvement Trust may make a greater Cuttack, but it will not be a city. It will mainly be a vast village What is not building or extending citities, but to enforce discipline with an iron hand. Roads, drains and public places must not be allowed to be encroached upon.

In Bhubaneswar encroachments have been removed ten times and they have come back ten times. Encroachment starts with a tin cabin. It becomes brick-built shed and ends in a palatial hotel, a part of which may be used for immoral purposes.

Encroachment must be dealt with firmly from the start and not left till it has become a double-storied house. Why must a man be allowed to build steps to his house over Municipal drains ? Why can he not build steps inside his house as existed in Gunupur during Madras days ? Whoever does any thing to attract collection of people must also provide for essential human needs like sanitary latrines. We have a market. For want of latrine people use the road sides as latrine. A V.I.P. comes to hold a meeting. Thusands of people gather and wait for hours together. Next day the whole place stinks like a latrine

In London when millions came to witness the coronation hundreds of sanitary latrines were built so that roads and pavements remained clean. If we cannot provide similar amenities we must not invite people to collect.

In all towns tea shops and pan shops come up like insects in the rainy season. Unless regular shops are built or allowed, where people can buy tea or pen ? Crores of rupees will merely build a slum of tin shacks and not a greater Cuttack.

What I want is iron discipline and not what we call urban development.

"A Prolegomena to City Planning In Indian Context-Past-Present and Future"

By SHRI N.P. PANIGRAHI, M.A.,P.G. D.T.C.P. (U.R.P.) SPA (Delhi)

Introduction :

From the ancient period to the beginning of the 17th century three types of towns were built in this country and these were, Religious Centres, Seats of Political Administration and port Towns. These towns were built mainly on the river valley. Particularly important in this context were the towns built along the Indo-Gangetic river valley. Most of these towns had mono-functional base The building of city, as such was evident also in the Moghul and British period.

British Period :

The alteration of the economic and political organisations were the reasons which gave rise to the growth and establishment of Urban centres during British rule.

During the early British Rule four major urban centres were stabilised, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and Delhi. The primary aim of the British rule in the development of these Urban centres were the exploitation of primary resources in the hinterland and exercising effective control over their territory, i.e. British India.

The rapid growth of these urban centres were also due to the provision of institutional facilities like college, university, hospital and other institutions. Many provincial capitals like Patna, Lucknow, Cuttack etc. were developed along with other District and Tehesil Head quarters. These played important role for the process of urbanisation since these were the centres which provided urban facilities. Moreover, these also developed as marketing and distribution centre as well as transport nodes. New urban centres were mostly located near sea coasts or at points which are accessible by railways and roads, The introduction of railways for both strategic and commercial purposes gave rise to the growth

and establishment of transport towns like Nagpur, Kharagpur, Gomo and Moghulsarai etc.

A cantonment was often built as a town or a major part of a town. Another major criterion in the urbanization process was the building of resourt towns like Mussorie, Darjeeling etc. either in the Himalayas or along the sea coast.

However a rational and scientific regional approach to the urbanization process was missing during the British Rule. The biggest bottleneck was the administrative division of the country for the purpose of strategic control and revenue collection, irrespective of cultural ethnic and geographical considerations. This divisions still exists in the from of States, Divisions, Districts and Tehesils.

Post Independence :

After independence, the Five Year Plan aimed at the economic development of the country which in turn had given rise to a rapid urbanization resulting in many cases amorphous and uncontrolled growth of the urban centres-particularly the metropolitan centres. While the constant deterioration of the Urban environment in these centres is facing the problem of human survival many new towns like Chandigarh are being built to conform atleast to basic standards.

Perspective planning :

The metropolitan centres of India are phenomenal in population growth mainly due to rural migrants. In the decades 1931-61, the growth of Delhi 424% and at present one fourth of its population are squatters and slum dwellers. Calcutta appears to be a city of perpetual sorrow. The facilities services and utilities available is dismal. Road constitutes only 7 per cent of the total land use. Water is available at 12 gallons per day per person which is far below the normal standard. The pavement dwellers grossly underestimated to be 30,000 by C.M.P.O. But in reality it is over half a million compare to the size of Oslo the capital of Norway. Alongwith, the C.M.D. contains India's greatest single concentration of production capacity accounting for 15 per cent of all India's manufacturings and handling about 30 per cent of value of India's bank clearance.

When we look to the local-self-government of these metropolitan centres the situation is alarming, these have no adequate finance to tackle the basic problems satisfactorily. In such juxtaposition the planning strategy should be to solve unemployment and basic necessity like water supply, sewerage and transportation. In these context, the planning of metropolitan centres cannot limit itself in the creation of towns and cities of architectural momumentality. For the time being the city beautiful movement is less meaningful in this planning process.

Production orented planning :

As a comparision to the metropolitan centres we are building new towns, financed by the production. In these towns we have achieved a physical force and true comprehensive plan. As a contrast to the metropolitan centres we are also building new towns which are financed by the production. In this process we have achieved a physical pattern and form incorporating the planning approach for much

better standard of living and also the advancement in Science and Technology as is common in European Countries.

Integrated planning approach :

The Physical Planning should be a part of total planning process. In our country there is no proper approach to integrate physical plan with economic plan. The cities and the towns play crucial role in national development. There is closer interrelationship between the economic activity and physical structure of a city. The physical planning has to conceive the city as an economic tool and not the static form of an environment consisting of merely roads and buildings. On the other hand the economic planning should consider mainly those economic policies which is effectively realised through physical developments.

Strategic versus comprehensive planning :

Planning approach can be strategic or comprehensive. Strategic approach is based on the priorities of development and a flexible framework whereas comprehensive approach is based on all inclusive programme of development and a predetermined framework. For the socio-economic transition, heteregenous character of our society and periodic catastrophes like flood, influx of refugees a strategic plan approach is far more desirable than the comprehensive one. We may comprehend the problems comprehensively but the Planning should be on selective approach depending on the possibilities of implementation.

Conclusions :

The Planning has to conform then to a strategy for she very life a survival of the community, and in this context the common man must not be lost sight of.

Polarization of activity in the urban centres to some extent is desirable but the cost benefit to the community due to the over concentration should be taken care of. In this context the regional planning and development paraicularly the identification of growth centres become imperative for meaningful physical Planning.



A tentative proposal for "A structural plan for cuttack : A perspective on population, Economy and Infrastructure"

(By The Courtesy of Operations Research Group,
Nandanvan, Baroda-7)

I. The Frame :

Cuttack is the largest city in the state of Orissa with a population of more than 200 thousands. Further, it is the oldest urban centre in Orissa, flourished mainly as a centre for trade and commerce in the state for the past few decades. The population of the city in the past two decades (i.e. between 1951-1971) has almost doubled. During the same period, the environs of the Cuttack city have undergone many significant changes and grown more rapidly than the city itself.

Geographically, Cuttack is surrounded on three sides by rivers. Thus, the possibiliry of continuous expansion of the city has mainly been limited to only one direction. The physical limitations have never stood in the way of the environs growth of Cuttack. The man-made decisions like creating capital at Bhubaneswar, creating a Nandan Kanan between Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, and establishment of an industrial settlement at Chowdar, have not only boosted the growth of environs but also impounded the growth of Cuttack city in the past one decade. The population of Bhubaneswar city has almost trebled during 1961-1971; has increased by six times between 1971; and reached a mark of 105 thousands in 1971. The Chowdar urban atea has registered a population increase of 4 times during 1971. Compared to these growth, population of Cuttack city has only doubled itself during this period. Moreover, population growth in Cuttack district is below the average of the state growth between 1961 and 1971. All the neighbouring districts around Cuttack, during the past decade, have shown an increasse in the population more than that of the state average (i.e. more than 25 per cent). The above findings reveal the impact of the environs growth on the growth of Cuttack city than vice versa. It may be that the future growth pattern of the city may depend more on the policies and planning programmes of the Cuttack environs.

Navertheless this urban centre has retained its structure during the process of development on the basis of prevailing socio-economic conditions and physical characteristics of the area and its neighbouring regions. The faster development in the neighbouring areas and the development barriers in the growth of Cuttack city have put the development of Cuttack at cross roads and hence a comprehensive assessment of growth and development of Cuttack is necessary. At this juncture, it is rather imperative to know what has happened to the growth of Cuttack city, specifically in the past two decades. and what will be the future of Cuttack city in the coming three decades. Such an analysis has to be based on detailed studies on various urban components, which are essentially needed for a clear understanding of the characteristics of the urban centres, and for the preparation of a planning programme. The identification of the major issues and constraints in the development and future growth of the region is the essence of the proposed study. While the growth is essentially a natural process, the creation of proper envitonment, necessary services and infrastructure to direct the future growth in a proper manner is the essence of the planning process. Some of the basic issues such a planning process seeks to identify are—

(*a*) What are the major constraints to the development process ?

(*b*) How to channelise the future growth of population and activities taking into account the resources or the constraints ?

(*c*) How to bring about co-ordinated development of a city based on the growth of its environs ?

(*d*) What programmes for development we envisage to provide the basic facilities to the growing population and also to improve the standards of existing facilities ?

(*e*) What areas of the city need immediate renewal or improvement ?

(*f*) How best we can introduce new life in the old city ?

(*g*) What is the future course of action in formulating schemes in different fields such as water supply. drainage, housing, transportation etc. ?

2. Approach to the Study :

Conceptually, the work involved in such a planning process can broadly be disaggregated into three stages. Thess are

(*i*) Preparation of the growth perspective and identification of existing structure of the city :

(*ii*) Preparation of a comprehensive progremme as a strategy for development—A structural plan for the city (a long range planning programme which should include the phasewise development and the needed planning policy should be spelled out).

(*iii*) Preparation of action area plans—(drawing the long and short range plans in details for immediate implementation).

The proposed study is limited to the first two stages of the planning process. The objective is to evolve a basic planning programme for certain key issues of urban development for the coming three decades. Whereas, the planning in the third stage (i.e. preparation of action area plans) more depends upon the available financial resources, priorities of needs of local authorities, and implementation feasibilities on which the local authorities have to decide from time to time.

2.1 Growth Perspective and Identification of Existing Structure :

The two-fold purpose of drawing perspective plan for Cuttack is—

(*a*) Indentification of issues and constraints in the development process;

(*b*) Evaluation of broad framework in the context of which the development programme may be conceived of;

The major aspects of such a study will emerge from—

(*i*) Socio-economic plan frame;

(*ii*) Infrastructural base;

and (*iii*) Physical limitations and development constraints on the growth.

Some of the major elements which should be covered under the first phase of study are—

A. Perspective of Population and Economic Growth :

Growth and composition of the population of the city of Cuttack and the pattern of future economic growth in relation to the development of the city and its environs.

B. The development constraints and physical barriers :

Land forms and densities, drainage, sewerage, deterioration of environments, cause of pollution etc.

C. Demand for key services :

Water supply, recreational facilities, education, health etc.

D. Direction of new growth :

Demarcation of the areas needed for residential purposes and various kinds of activities as well as generalised future arterial road system.

2.2 Towards a comprehensive Programme as a Strategy for Development :

Both short and long range planning programme and policies are to be evolved for this city considering the existing and future needs of the population. This plan will be basically an extension and an improvement of the schematic plan suggested at the first stage, i. e. the growth perspective and indentification of existing structure. Most of the inputs needed for second stage of work will be available from the first stage of the plan. A comprehensive programme is intended to create leading to number of 'action area plans' covering long and short range needs of the growth and development of the city. Such a comprehensive plan will specify a time bound development process based on certain goals and development principles.

In the light of the above discussions under the preparation of plans for stage I and stage II, the major objectives set-forth are :

(*i*) To draw a perspective on population and economic growth under alternative assumptions of development pattern;

(*ii*) To identify the economic base of the area;

(*iii*) To identify the nature of deficiencies in the infrastructural net-work- such as water supply, drainage and sewerage, education, health and transportation; and also to suggest the future needs;

(*iv*) Distribution of major activities such as residential, commercial etc.;

(*v*) To identify the physical limitations and development constraints and the needed adjustments;

(*vi*) Identification of critical areas for renewal or improvement, conservation of areas and potential growth areas; and to suggest broad policies for development;

(*vii*) Identification of the bottleneck in the transportation system; and needed arterial road network for the city;

(*viii*) To estimate the cost of development of infrastructure—(broad aspects at city level only will be dealt with. It may please be noted that this aspect would only be taken provided necessary information is available with the local authorities).

3. **Study plan :**

The plan contemplates development programme for the major areas on only selected issues in respect of problems of the growth of city for the coming three decades. It will be mostly based on existing and available information with various authorities, institutions and organizations. Information gaps will be filled up by organizing the required surveys at the city level.

The plan may be based on secondary data available in census and various government and private institutions. But a plan drawn on secondary data has its limitations Our experience indicates that the data available at secondary sources, though not fully reliable may just be adequate to draw a structural plan and a programme for certain key areas. But such data may be inadequate for preparation of any action area plans detailed programmes for development of a city or to understand the socio-economic characteristics of micro regions. In case implementation gets delayed, the data base may become obsolete. To offset such limitations, it may be desirable to uedertake surveys for generation of primary data.

The above remarks have been made to suggest to the authorities, to choose their plan of action depending upon their immediate needs and financial resources. This may enable the authorities to have a flexible approach for conducting surveys at an appropriate time. Based on the suggestions of authorities, the surveys may be taken up under the proposed study.

Four surveys contemplated for the study and the field costs of the respective surveys are given below :

		Mandays	Rs.
(a) Housing and Household survey			
	4000 samples :		
	Investigators	2000	30,000
	Supervisors	400	8,000
	Coding, Punching and Computer time		14,000
(b) Establishment Survey			
	400 samples :		
	Investigators	200	3,000
	Supervisors	40	800
	Coding, Punching and Computer time		3,600
(c) Basic Facilities Survey			
	(i) Education, (ii) Health, (iii) Parks, (iv) Recreational facilities such as cinema, theatres, sports ground, (v) Post offices, (vi) Religious centres	450	9,000
(d) Traffic O—D survey			
	(for two days for major focal points)	500	10,000
			64,8000

It is presumed that the land use of Cuttack region will be made available to the consultants by GCIT authorities.

4. Estimated Cost :

The total estimated cost for the study for the two stages of planning has been worked out. It may be noted that the cost of the surveys has not been included in the estimate. Based on the selection of a survey or surveys by the authorities, the survey cost has to be added. The cost estimates for the project are given below :

Cost :			Rs.
1.	Preparation of work and data collection from secondary sources		15,000
*2.	Field work (a) General		8,000
	(b) Surveys*		
*3.	Data processing and analysis		9,000
4.	Expenditure on stationery		5,000
5.	Professional staff members—Two for one year		30,000
6.	Research staff and systems analysts		10,000
7.	Expenditure on tours		6,000
		Total	83,000
8.	Overheads @ 10%		8,300
		Total	91,300

(Note : Printing of the final report may cost between Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 10,000. Actual printing cost would be met by GCIT; allied services will be provided by ORG free of cost)

*If the surveys are to be conducted, the cost under items 2 & 3 have to be deleted from the total cost and the survey costs (Rs. 84,800) should be added in the total cost.

5. **Time Schedule** :

The proposed study of first and second level planning will be completed within a period of about 15 months. If surveys are not to be organized, the study is likely to be completed within one year. The project will be supervised by a team consisting of urban planner, economic planner, sociologist and demographer, and assisted by four junior staff members and computer systems of O.R.G. The time schedule for different phases of the study is given as follows :

		WEEKS
1.	Preparation and date collection from secondary sources	25
2.	Field work (4 surveys)	15
3.	Data processing	10
4.	Presentation of interim findings	12
5.	Presentation of final report	6
		68

6. **Terms of Payment** :

		Rs.
1.	On commencement of the work	20,000
2.	After completion of date processing	20.000
3.	Presentation of interim findings	20,000
4	After submission of final report	31,300
	Total	91,300



City Above The City, City Within The City And City Under The City

By SHRI NIMAIN CHARAN PANI
B.Sc (Hons), B.E. (Civil)
D.T.R. (Paris), F I.E. (India)
Chief Engineer,
Greater Cuttack Improvement Trust, Cuttack.

This may be a factor fiction; if fact, there are no documents to prove it and if fication, let it lie over. The City fathers were worried. They held discussions for days together. No point, worth deliberation could excape their notice. It started from the slum clearance to mosquito menace including the problem of drainage and sewergae. The mushroom growth of wooden cabins right on the flanks of the road was also discussed. The encroachment on the Government land engaged their serious attention. They thought that the day would not be far, when the City roads would be merely zigzag lines having only length, but without any breadth. On these roads the vehicular traffic will be forbidden, but the pedestrians will move in que. as usually seen in front of a ticket counter.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch, all problems remaining unsolved. Afternoon Session was equally futile and tiresome. New points were discussed like unauthorised construction. I the owner X wants to put up a latrine just opposite to the spacious dinining room of the owner Y, the Planning Controller Z will be a silent and helpless spectator. The land lord P can set a show house in a residential area with the loud speaker directed on to the Study room of a Research Scholar Q. All these could happen, but the remedy is for-fetched.

The City fathers were disgusted. Like a silver lining on the dark cloud, a young father rose and moved a motion to refer the intricate problems to a committee. This was loudly appreciated, not for the reason that solution would be easier but to temporarily get rid and wriggle out of the real issue. Once a famous 'Pundit' proclaimed that if the issue really concerns you, always move in a group and at the critical points, refer the matter to a committee.

However, the composition of the Committee was discussed thereadbare. Alas, the ingredients proposed were so contraindicated that the composition being homogeneous became a heterogenous mixture.

The clock on the wall stoke zero hour and the youngest father moved the following resolution.

"The thousand meeting of the City fathers firmly unequivocally and unanimously resolves that for tackling the problems of drainage and sewerage, slum clearance, environmental sanitation, mosquito menace, removal, of wooden cabins and encroachments, unauthorised constructions, disorganised shopping and taking effective steps for setting up planned sectoral markets, Parks, traffic signalling, widening the roads, truck terminal, Cultural Centres and creating centres for passive and active recreational facilities, a City Builder of International repute should be invited to visit this historic city of Cuttack who during his prolonged stay, will study every aspects of the problem and submit an action oriented programme for consideration of the City Fathers".

The resolution was lying on the floor for sometime and finally passed unanimously through simultaneous yawn and sigh.

The City Builder, atlast, reached Cuttack and was received with warmth and felicitations. The platform was packed, the cameras clicked from all angles and the flowers were so showered that the tall and frail old man was virtually bent.

The City Builder stayed at Cutcack for about 3 months during the months of July, August and September. He interviewed thousand of people, held discussion with all sections of Citizens and prepared heaps of notes, sketches and reports.

Towards the end of his sojourn one morning he got up and saw that his body was shivering. To his horror, he discovered that his entire skin had developed some blisters in the various stages of sepsis obviously on account of bite by a cruel insect. He was terrified when he found that his lower limb was swollen with inflamed glands at the joints.

The City Builder decided to quit the City, the same evening and before his departure he hurriedly convened a Press Conference and City Fathers' meeting. On account of severe ache and serious indisposition, he could not make out a speech but distributed a typed note prepared in telegraphic style which reads as follows :—

"Visited the City, investigated the cause, this City can not be improved for physiogeographical reasons and has passed the stage of re-development. The only solution is to build a new City over the existing one by casting a cement concerte roof at a hight of 25 ft from the ground level supported by concrete columns for an area of 561800000 square ft. where the activities of the modern Cuttack City should function".

The store chips required for the above roof are in the order of 355000000 cubic ft. and to meet with above requirement entire Tapang (Kurda) and Haridas-

pur granite quarries will be exhausted. The rough cost of the above scheme is in the order of Rs. 200 crores".

The report was duly placed before the thousandth and one meeting. The City fathers were bewildered to have such a fantastic roport at enormous cost. This was severely criticized, but whom to blame ? The decision to appoint an Expert was taken unanimously in the thousandth meeting. It my be through yawn and sigh or nap and slumber, but the minutes were carefully recorded.

The youngest father who moved the resolution for appointment of a City Builder rose up and firmly said—"No remorse please, we reared a hen for golden eggs, but the hen became barren. Why to blame the poor creature ? This historic City of Cuttack will be improved and developed, although not in our time but during the next generation or thereafter".

The meeting was adjourned with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Since then perhaps a few decades have passed. Much water has flown in the river Mahanadi and Kathajuri. The poor Citizens of Cutthck has looked forward to a time, when the predictions of the youngest father of good old days would come true.

Perhaps the oppcrtune moment has come. The multihued spectrum of morning Sun (Arun) at the eastern horizon has cast its panoramic glance on Arunodaya Building, Link Road, (Sanjog Sarani) where the office of the Greater Cuttack Improvement Trust is presently located. The above Trust, being a pioneer Trust in the state is not only a planning authority, controlling and maintaining the town planning activities provided under the Orissa Town Planning and Improvement Trust Act of 1956, but has planned and taken up multifaceted activities to improve and redevelop the old historic City of Cuttack in a manner commensurate with the concept of modern town planning, engineering and architecture.

The operations involved in improving an old City like Cuttack are fourfold closely following the natural rule of arithmatic like addition, substraction, multiplication and division. These operations in the planning stage may individually or concurrently proceed so as to make the end product economically viable, commercially sound and traditionally acceptable to the Citizens of Cuttack.

By the above natural process, we can build a City over the City, a City within a City lastly a City under the City.

The action programme of the Greater Cuttack Improvement Trust (G.C.I.T.) has already been launched. Some of the important activities that have been taken up and future perspectives of Cuttack's Planning are indicated below :

1. City Over A City :—

The concept of building a City over the City is not based upon the fantastic idea of the erstwhile City Builder, who proposed to cast a R.C.C. roof at a height of 25' from the ground level all over the existing City of Cuttack for an enormous area of 56,18,00000 square feet and consuming the entire store products of Tapang and Haridaspur quarries.

The basic idea in the present case is to go vertically instead of horizontal spreading so that the maxium utlisation of the valvable urban land is ensured. The activities should be so regulated that except the sporadic use of entry and exist on the ground, optimum stay, use, transaction and movement etc. are carried on the vertical floors. The Planning of the structure would be such that possible activities of poeple including recreational facilities are conducted in a multistoried complex, where from the Occupants are given a psychological feeling of living in the upper stratum of the atmosphere and could usually see the skyline of the Old existing Cuttack City at lower level The above discernible feeling has been reflected in the planning a few multistoried complex in the Cuttack City.

(a) Buxibazar Super Market cum Office Complex.

The site for the above market cum office complex is vacant after the shops existing thereon were shiffed to the new market known as Auxiliary market building constructed by the G.C.I.T. and opened by the Chief Minister of Orissa on 25-10-1975.

The site measures an area of 2·52 acres and the built of area of the proposed complex is about 40000 square feet. In the ground floor of the above complex, provision has been made for basement parking of nearly 60 vehicles along with a few spacious godowns and a coldstorage. At a height of 10′—0″ from the ground, the 1st floor, approached by a wide stair case accommodates about 137 shops of various sizes i.e. 20′×20′, 20′x10′ and 10′x10′. The 2nd floor consists of two restraunts with a large terrace garden for users of this complex. The 4th and the 5th floors are meant for Hotel, where there are 24 suites of rooms with attached bath and luxirious balcony. The 6th and the 7th floor are designed for holding offices by Government, quasi Government, company, Corporation and Banks etc. In the second stage of construction, the building may be taken up to 13th floor commenssurate with demand.

An air conditioned Cinema hall starts from the ground floor of the above complex and ends at the level of the 3rd floor, being a part of the structure. The hall has been designed to have 1000 seate with other ancilliary facilities.

The cost of the total scheme upto 7th floor is Rs. 1·40 crores and for execution of the above scheme, arrangement has been made to obtain loan assistance from a financier institution. The economic vialibilty of the scheme has been worked out and the schedule below indicates the investment, returns and repayment of interest and principal along with the financial surplus or profit of the Turst.

Investment for construction	Lon Assistance	Advance deposits Ist instalment charges.	Instalment deposit.	Total receipt.
1	2	3	4	5
Rs. 140 lakhs	Rs. 161·50	Rs. 21 99 lakhs	Rs. 224·105	Rs. 407·595

Balance	Interest payable	Available surplus for repayment.	Balance Loan outstanding	Net financial surplus.
6	7	8	9	10
Rs. 267·595	Rs. 95·335	Rs. 161·50	Nil	Rs. 10.·60 lakhs.

It has been decided that all the flats of the complex with cinema hall and godowns will be sold to intending entrepreneurs either on outright or on instalmental basis. The Trust does not intend to rent out these flats.

The selected buyers are required to deposit the registration fees of fixed amount variable in case of each component soon after their selection by the Allotment Committee of the Trust. If the payment is not on outright basis the buyers are required to pay the principal and the interest at suitable intervals according to the schedule of cash flow prescribed by the Trust.

(b) The Re-development of Old Secretariat Complex :

The temporary buildings of asbestos roof in the old secretariat area, Cuttack were constructed during the World war No. 2 where number of offices of the State and Central Government are housed. These buildings have already outlived their economic life and some how been kept in a managable condition by incurring heavy expenditure on annual repairs.

A comprehensive Scheme has been prepared covering an area of 24·70 acres. The scheme broadly envisages the construction of five double storied blocks with segmental layout in the front to accommodate shops in the ground floor and offices of the commercial and private establishments on the first floor. The setting up these blocks has been kept with a minimum off-set of 100′ from the edge of the main road to avoid traffic congestion.

The Central administrative block has been proposed to be constructed at the rearside with a vast plaza and open space in the front. The above administrative block will have 10 floors to accommodate all the Government and Semi-Government offices functioning in the old Secretariat area and also includes those, which are held in private houses on rent in the City.

The total cost of the project is Rs. 306·35 Lakhs. The amount of investment, return and financial surplus to Trust by way of profit is indicated in the following schedule.

Investment on construction	Loan investment from financier.	Advance deposit	Instalment amount.	Total receipt	Balance
1	2	3	4	5	6
Rs. 306·351 lakhs.	Rs. 342·71	Rs. 13·50	Rs. 459·72	Rs. 815·92	Rs. 509·58

Interest payable	Available surplus to be paid towards principal	Balance loan outstanding	Net financial surplus to the Trust.
7	8	9	10
Rs. 131·57	Rs. 342·71	Nil	Rs. 35·30 lakhs.

The construction of this multistoried block has been so phased that after one floor is completed, the occupants from the existing sheds would move to

occupy their space in the new building and in course of time, all the old and existing sheds will be demolished, thereby the open space will be developed to nice lawn and a plaza.

2. **A City within the City :**

To have a city within the existing City although appears to be a paradox, yet considering the neighbourhood principle of planning, is feasible in two ways. The first method is to restructure the existing built up area with introduction of new necessities and conveniences in a planned manner, so that the restructured zones from Mini Cities within the existing City.

The existing street, shopping in Cuttack is conducted in a non-planned manner making the narrow roads more congested. It has been planned to construct 14 Sectorial Markets at the rate of one such market per two muncipal wards so that shopping activities are planned and regulated Action has already been taken by the Trust to start four such Sectorial markets at College Square, near Chanditemple, behind East Coast Brewery and at Darpani Compound. Cuttack Municipality has taken appropriate steps to construct a Sectorial market near Hind Cinema and Jubilee Market. The existing old and dilapidated wooden cabins on the edge of road ere being gradually replaced by the Kiosks of various designs made up of brick masory and concrete and in some cases prefabricated.

There are two Housing Accommodation Schemes, when completed will form two Mini Towns, one at Sikharpur and the other at Tulsipur. The Sikharpur Housing Accommodation Scheme is located in an area of 126 Acres for providing 1500 houses, 1339 developed residential plots and 326 commercial plots. In the first phase of the scheme, 904 houses are being constructed, 481 residential plots and 102 commercial plots are being developed. The estimated cost of the first phase of the Scheme is in the order of Rs. 215 Lakhs. The expenditure incurred in regard to this scheme till the end of March 1976 is Rs. 53·00 Lakhs. It has been decided to sell 101 Nos. of Low Income Group Houses in the month of May 1976 to the registered applicants. 150 Nos. of houses for economically Weaker Section of the society have just been started.

The other scheme is the Tulsipur Housing Accommodation Scheme, which has to be constructed in four different phases. The first phase envisages the construction of 122 houses for Government Officials. The Trust will execute the Scheme out of the loan assistance offered by HUDCO and subsidised by Revenue Department and with a meagre profit, sell the buildings to Revenue Department on payment principal and interest at suitable intervals. The Government in their turn will rent out the buildings to their employees on usual terms and conditions. The estimated cost of the first phase of the Scheme is Rs. 33·00 Lakhs. The preliminary steps are being taken to start the work.

The second way to form a City within the City is formulated in the Jail relocation Scheme. The existing Cuttack Jail is located in the heart of the Cuttack City and occupies an area of nearly 28 acres of valuable urban land. The Site for the new Jail has been selected in the villages of Uttamapur and Subhadrapur an

old Jagannath road near Balikuda Railway Station. After the existing Jail is shifted to the new site, this land, so to say a gold mine in the heart of the City, is proposed to be planned as a modern complex consisting of multistoried residential flats, Markets, Parks, Hotels, Resturants, community centres all that are necessary for comfortable living of City dwellers so as to make the relocation scheme a self-contained one. Attempts are now being made to locate a Real Estate Developer who can abinitio invest the finance for implementation of this scheme, which could subsquently be repaid with Principal and the interest. Alternatively arrangement has also been made with several Banks to form a consotorium to finance this prestigeous and major relocation project of the City.

3. City under the City :

Presently it is perhaps beyond any body's imagination that Cuttack will have an under ground repid transport system. The City of Cuttack will continue to preserve its importance and the growth of population will be on the upward trend. On account of the geographical barriers like rivers on three sides and the general tendency of the people to accommodate themselves in the limited area, it is natural to presume that the existing surface transport arteries after a century will appear constricted compared to the volume of traffic. The only solution is the under ground transport system like "Metro" in Paris or "Tubes" in London.

Events which can-not be conceived presently by any stretch of imagination, sometimes take place like landing on the Moon. Let us project our ideas on the need in the twenty first century and perhaps none of us could be there to witness the Cuttack Rapid Transport System (C. R. T. S.) operating under ground in a tunnel. The movement will be ragulated by electronic signals and injection of oxygen and ejection of subsoil water in the Tunnel will be carried through the nuclear energy.

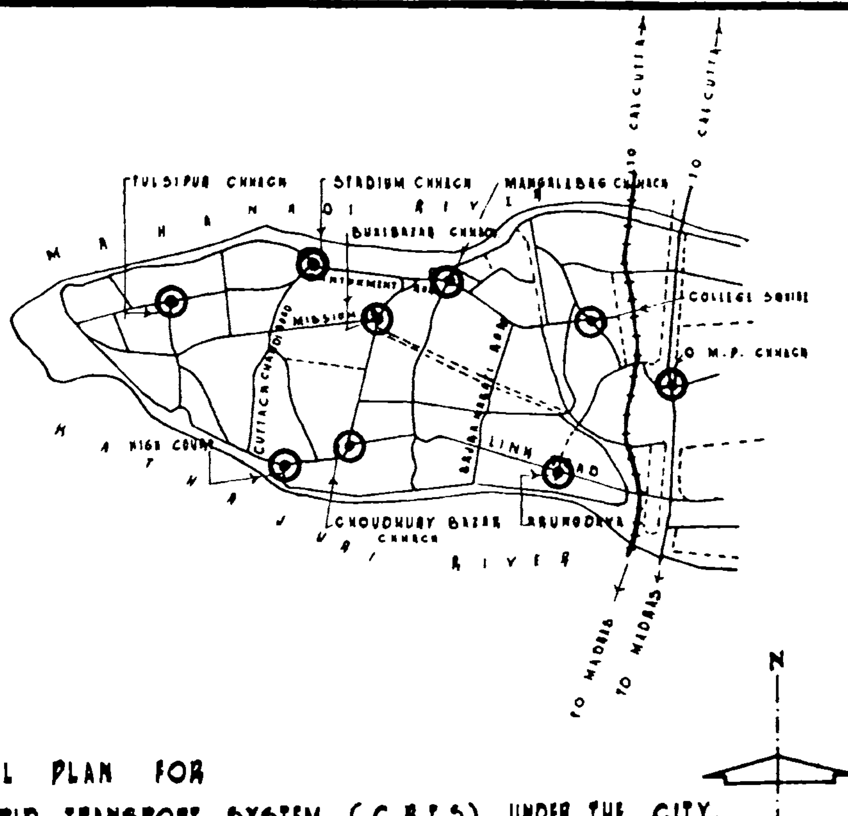
The conceptual plan of the under ground Cuttack Rapid Transport System (C. R. T. S.) is given below for the fancy of the readers.

As long as you are in the underground and do not come to the surface your ticket of value say one rupee is not invalidated. This case only arises when you are moving in the wrong direction and detrained in a wrong station. For your own advantage, you should keep a C. R. T. S. map with you till you are accostomed about the route, direction and station. A road map will be available leading from the C. R. T. S. station to your destination on the surface. For reaching the underground platform of the station, you may use stair case, lift cabins or excalator (moving stairs). If you are a frequent traveller in C. R. T. S. it is advisable to purchase 20 tickets at a time which the C. R. T. S. authorities may choose to sell at say Rs. 16/-.

It is quite likely that C. R. T. S. may extend its operation to Bhubaneswar on the south and Choudwar on the north in the twenty second century, thereby Commercial City of Cuttack is linked up with Cultural City of Bhubaneswar and Industrial city of Choudwar and this will form a "diamond arc". The underground C. R. T. S. rail tracks will be laid below the bed of rivers Mahanadi and Kathjuri as in cases of rivers Thames for London Tubes and Siene for Paris Metro.

After the State Capital was shifted from Cuttack to Bhubaneswer, it was a general feeling that Cuttack would gradually loose its importance and process of decline would be accelerated by the progressive deteriotion of sanitary conditions. But this feeling has been belied. Cuttack goes stronger and brighter. Almost everyday fresh plots of lands are purchased, new houses are built and swampy areas are reclaimed. Whatever may be reasons, soil of Cuttack has got a special attraction. It has got a very low bearing capacity for structural construction but it possesses a high order of cultural heritage, social consciousness and traditional cosmopolitanism and that is one of the reasons why all the citizens, irrespective of their caste, creed and colour cling to the mother earth of Cuttack for peace, prosperity and protection.





CONCEPTUAL PLAN FOR

CUTTACK RAPID TRANSPORT SYSTEM (C.R.T.S) UNDER THE CITY.

PROPOSED UNDERGROUND STATIONS ARE SHOWN ⊙

A Note on Geographical Constraints for the Development of Cuttack City

Dr. B. N. SINHA,
Prof. & Head of the
Department of Geography,
Utkal University.

Cuttack City, the oldest and largest in the entire State, is suffering from its present ills due to many geographical constraints. The very first geographical control is its location. This City was first located at the apex of the delta from the point of defence during the historic days. The city was protected by two major rivers, the Mahanadi and the Kathajuri, its distributary, in its north-east and south-west sides respectivly. Thus the city is pressed on three sides by the rivers and hence it can only grow to the south-east. This is perhaps the most important factor for the present problems from which the City is suffering.

As it is located in the apex of the Mahanadi delta, the levees of these rivers are higher in elevation than the city core. The average elevation of the middle tract of the city, starting from Bidanasi upto Bajrakabati is the lowest portion and its level even becomes lower than that of the high flood levels of the Kathjuri and Mahanadi during the floods· During the monsoons the city is flooded with local heavy down pours. The drainage channel which takes its origin from the Barabati Killa area and flows by the side of Pravat Cinema and flows down downstreams to Bajrakabati area drains the water. Then it runs parallel to the main Taladanda Canal to meet the Kathajuri near Bidyadharpur Farm. This drainage channel fails to drain the local flood waters to the river Kathajuri as its level is lower than that of the river itself. Thus drainage has remained a perpetual problem of Cuttack City in the past and it has been aggravated by the half hazard constructions which have disturbed the natural flow of water. Further, the local pools and tanks which used to work as 'soak pits' of rain water, have also been either filled up in natural process or for construction work. This process has aggravated the problem. We predict that in the decades to come the drainage problem will be aggravated further if proper action is not taken in clearing the channel and maintaining it properly.

The second geographical constraint which has proved injurious for the Cuttack City is the former flood embankment which links Ranihat, Dolamundei, Badambari and ultimately joins the Kathajuri embankment. This embankment was constructed to prevent flood waters from rushing into the Cuttack City in the historic past. But at the present moment, it has become a major huddle for draining the rain water from the main built up areas, located to the north and west of this road.

The third geographical control is the recent origin of the Taladanda canal and the S. E. Railway line, linking Calcutta to Madras which used to be the south-eastern limit of the City, have now practically become the dividing line between the old Cuttack City and the new developing areas near O.M.P. Chhak, Chauliaganj. Naya Bazar and Bidyadharpur Farm areas. The present Cuttack-Paradip railway line has added further complications. These railway lines have created problems of commutation between the main city and the newly developed areas. This can probably be solved with an adequate number of over-bridges and under-bridges.

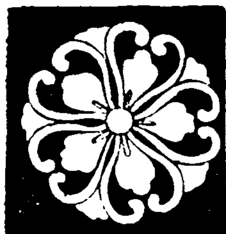
Since Cuttack is an old City, it is mostly an over-grown village which has conglomerated several villages by later sprawl of the city and that too again mostly after independence. These villages had very narrow winding roads, only suited for bullock carts which were then the principal mode of transport. Such examples are many like the Keutasahi, Baniasahi, Sagadiasahi, Jholasahi, Patapol etc. Since these were the oldest built up areas, the roads have continued to maintain their original pattern and hence they are creating problems for to-days' fast automobils transportation system. This problem has further been accentuated as those old villages have remained as they were and hence they are the present day worst slums in the city of Cuttack. Even if we modernise the city of Cuttack by constructing excellent roads on the river fronts of Kathjuri and Mahanadi, these areas will continue to be the pockets of slums in the modern city, if they are not completely demolished and rebuilt. This is a proposition which is neither feasible due to heavy financial involvement nor practicable politically, as we are planning the city in democracy.

The fourth geographical control is clearly revealed in the shifting of the C. B. D. centres from north-west towards south-east as the city has grown beyond the present railway line towards south-east. This can be proved easily by stating that the Chandnichowk area were the oldest C. B. D. area which shifted to Chaudhury Bazar and Marwari Patty complex. But at the present moment signs of deterioration are easily visible by the growth of modern shopping centres further to the south-east in and around Buxi Bazar and Ranihat areas. This shifting of the C. B. D. centres has posed several problems. The most important amongst them is the old shopping centres at Chandnichowk and Balu Bazar areas have completely declined and alongwith the buildings of these areas, have also shown signs of dilapidation. We would, therefore, suggest these areas should be taken up under core-redevelopment plans.

To arrest this shifting the C. B. Ds from the Chandnichowk area towards south-east and the consequent deterioration of Tulsipur Chandnichowk and Balu

Bazar areas, some impetus should be provided in the form of putting extra in-puts. This can be achieved if we link up Charbatia with that of Tulsipur and Purighat with that of Mundumuhan by two bridges along the old Orissa Trunk Road. This will shorten the distance between Cuttack and Chaudwar on the one hand and Cuttack and Bhubaneswar on the other. This will also greatly relieve the traffic on the existing Mahanadi and Kathjuri bridges whose capacity may soon be exceeded by the heavy long distance traffic on N. H. 5 and local traffic, when the road bridges over Godavari and Krishna in the south are completed. The traffic will increase further with the completion of the bridge over the Subarnarekha which will shorten the distance between Calcutta and Cuttack and consequently between Calcutta and Vijayawada. These micro-level problems are bound to interact in micro-level planning, a factor which is very often overlooked by administrator-planners, who are more concerned in their immediate neighbourhood which come strictly under their administrative jurisdiction Thus if these two bridges are constructed over the Mahanadi and Kuakhai, the north-western part of the city will develop very fast and the economy of the people, who inhabit those areas will improve. They will also shorten the distance between Cuttack-Bhubaneswar complex, the administrative-commercial capital of Orissa, and Sambalpur in western Orissa.

The other geographical factor which will affect the city's inter-communication between the newly developed areas to the south-east of the railway line and the old city areas is the N. H. 5 by the end of this decade. It is very strange that while the bi-passes are being constructed for the National Highways at major cities and towns of the country, we have allowed the N. H. 5 to cut Cuttack City into two halves. We foresee the load of traffic over this road from the Mahanadi bridge upto the Kuakhai bridge inter-communication between the western and eastern halves of Cuttack City will be almost impossible. I, therefore, suggest a fly-over from Mahanadi bridge to Taldanda bridge and from Taldanda bridge to Kathjuri bridge should be planned during, this 5th plan itself failing which the cost of construction will be very much prohibitive during the ninties of this century.



Meria Bazar : A Developing Ward In Cuttack City

Prof. Dr. L. K. MOHAPATRA
&
Miss. SANGITA MOHAPATRA
Department of Anthropology,
Utkal University.

There have been several studies of cities and towns in India. But study of a neighbourhood or a ward in urban community is rather rare. The department of Anthropology, Utkal University, was therefore interested in making some studies of urban neighbourhoods. Kumari Annapurna Khuntia, a former U.G.C. Scholar, was given the assignment of studying social interactions in Jhanjir Mangala, a neighbourhood of Cuttack city. But unfortunately, she could not complete it. Then a small slum of Bhubaneswar planned city was undertaken for study, and the Department of Geography, Utkal University, was associated with it. It's report will be ready soon. Meanwhile two students were assigned dissertation studies for their M.A./M.Sc. examinations on the topics, "Occupational change in a Cuttack Ward" (Sangita Mohapatra) and "Social interaction in a Bhubaneswar neighbourhood (Sakuntala Mishra). The present study is an outgrowth of the first dissertation study. As there was not much time given for making a comprehensive and deeper study of the Meria Bazar Ward of Cuttack city, it has not been possible to attempt an adequate social history of the Neighbourhood. Therefore, the present paper is to be taken as a preliminary version based on tentative findings.

Though Cuttack is an ancient city of about 1000 years, there is no mention of the villages around the fort of Barbati, which catered to the needs of the Capital of Orissa or were incorporated in to the urban complex developing through centuries around the fort. The earliest book on Cuttack town by Govinda Rath, namely, "*Kataka Darshana*", published in 1894, unfortunately does not refer to Meria Bazar or Kesharpur, though many neighbourhoods of the present Cuttack city have been described. Without doubt a number of villages on the fringe of the then existing Cuttack town must have been swallowed by the expanding town. But we have not been able to find references to constituent parts and neighbourhoods of Cuttack town in other available published documents.

History of Meria Bazar :

In the absence of any reliable history of the neighbourhoods of Cuttack town, we have to depend on the legends concerning the nemenclature of Meria Bazar. According to one current legend, the intended victims of human sacrifice by the Kondh tribe of Phulbani areas were rescued by British officers and were settled in Meria Bazar area under Christian Missionary care. As the human sacrifice victims were known as "Meria", the locality had taken its name from them, according to this legend. This legend has some historical basis as the old Gazeteers refer to the Meria victims having been rescued and settled in Cuttack. At any rate, the neighbouring ward, Petin Sahi, named after a Christian Missonary, was reputed to be inhabited by Christian coverts since the 19th century. Another neighbourhood ward, Makarba Sahi, is also an ancient site of missionary activities in the middle of the 19th century. Apart from this legend, which has a historical base and circumstantial evidences to support it, there is also another legend current among the local residents of Meria Bazar. This refers to the sacrificial post and the human sacrifices prominent in the rituals of a zamindar family of Meria Bazar. This particular zamindar family which traces its descent from Bhikari Charan Biswal, four generations back, is reputed to have been the landlord of the whole area of Meria Bazar. It is quite possible that the locality or the neighbourhood existed earlier than the settlement of the Meria victims in 1857. That this is so, is suggested by the tradition of sharing the same village goddess, Barei Thakurani, for all important ceremonies with the neighbouring ward, Kesharpur, traditionally Hindu neighbourhood. It is quite possible that the present residents of Meria Bazar resent the historical association with Meria victims, whose progeny are alleged to be found among the christians of Meria Bazar, Petin Sahi and Makarba Sahi.

The Growth of Meria Bazar :

It is reported that the late zamindar Bhikari Charan Biswal had, about four generations back sponsored settlement of immigrants and various service castes like barbars, washermen, Brahmin priests, besides agricultural neighbourers and others. Prior to that the area was very spareely populated and most probably by agriculturists and their helping hands. The area before such settlement was reported to be under paddy cultivation.

In the absence of corroborative evidence from Municipal records, it has been ascertained from the ward Members of Meria Bazar that Meria Bazar area was incorporated in the Cuttack Municipality about 1920, though the Cuttack Municipality itself was constituted in 1876. At present Meria Bazar is a ward of cuttack Municipality and elects I wardmember who sits in the Cuttack Municipality Council. This has been shown since 1951, when it was newly constituted as a separate ward. Prior to that date Meria Bazar, Kesharpur and Makarba Sahi were together comprising one Ward. The increase of population in Meria Bazar must have been one of the important factors for constituting this neighbourhood as a separate ward. The boundary of Meria Bazar stretches just beyond the drainage canal in the west with Kesharpur ward and Bepari Sahi Ward on the other side of the drainage canal,

to Rahusapatna ward in the north, to Petin Sahi ward in the east and to the Chowdhury Bazar and Buxibazar Road in the South, with Makarba Sahi ward in the southeast and Buxibazar Word in the Southwest.

The drainage canal was originally a channel from the Mahanadi running across Cuttack town and discharged the water in the eastern marshes near the Kathajori river. It is said this water was used for irrigation purposes when there were plenty of paddy lands in and arround of Cuttack town. But at present the drainage canal has no connection with the Mahanadi and is actually used as a huge open drain of waste materials of all kinds born of city living. Those familiar with Cuttack and coastal towns of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh need not be told that such open drains as also those along the roads are used universally as extensive latrines. It may be pointed out that as yet no public latrines have been provided in Merla Bazar Ward.

Though this ward has been included in Cuttack Municipality since 1920, it was sadly neglected in educational facilities till 1948, when a lower primary school was established by the municipality. Children of all the neighbouring wards come to attend this L. P. School. Prior to the establishment of this School, children attended a school in Buxibazar—Bepari Sahi area, quite a distance for young children to traverse in the town. The only other institution of learning in this ward is the Usha Sewing Training School established in 1953 by the concerned company to serve the ladies of cuttack town. Apart from the Barei Thakurani Village goddess housed in a small temple under a tree, one Radha Krishna Temple has been established in 1955. It is reported that specially the permanent residents of Merla Bazar contributed towards the construction of the temple and the installation of the image. Since the last 10 years or so a covered platform has been constructed for holding community worship of Durga and others.

There used to be a few tanks for bathing, drinking water and for usage by the cattle. At present all the tanks are privately owned, though two tanks are still open to all users. The area has a few wells in private compounds which are not open to the public. The municipality water taps are used for domestic purposes in most of the houses in the built up area of Merla Bazar, whereas for the use of the slum-dwellers and others without any municipal water supply connection, there are three public water taps.

The open air recreation facilities are very limited in this ward. Because of the overcrowding and pressure on space, the only play ground existing in the area, has shrunk to its barest minimum, One club has been organized by the youth of this area, The members organise recreational activities including sports, cultural performances and community worship.

We do not have any statistics showing the population growth in Merla Bazar, at least, since 1920, when it was incorporated in Cuttack Municipality. However, in 1974 October, the population of Merla Bazar stood at 645, 377 men and 268 women only. Only 87 families live in this area, where as 59 are staying either singly without constituting families. If we survey their places of birth, 159

are immigrants from other parts of Cuttack City, 150 are from elsewhere in Cuttack district, 40 from Dhenkanal district, 30 from Puri district, 23 from Keonjhar district, 27 from Balasore district, and 29 from Mayurbhanj district of Orissa, besides 39 from Andhra Pradesh, 27 from West Bengal, 13 from Rajasthan and 9 from Gujarat, as known from their place of birth.

It may be noted that the built up area of Meria Bazar extends along the eastwest road from Buxi Bazar, via Bepari Sahi towards Petin Sahi, whereas a big slum area has grown along the east and west banks of the drainage canal, and a smaller slum has raised its head in the north-east adjacent to Petin Sahi. The permanent residents of Merla Bazar are to be found mostly in the built up area already referred to,

Though the population of Meria Bazar might have been originally from Orissa belonging to Hindu religion, by 1860's some Christian converts must have swelled its numbers. It is reported that the Muslim and Christian population is becoming lesser and lesser to the advantage of the Hindu residents. After the introduction of the public latrine system some Hadi scavengers have settled down in the slum areas. But a greater influx has occurred from Andhra and from Dhenkanal district of Orissa, as rickshaw pulling came to be one of the readily available means of earning one's livelihood. Among the Oriya-speaking groups, it is reported, the Brahman, Kshatriya, Chasa, and Karan had settled earlier than other immigrant castes.

Occupational Change :

We find at present the population of Meria Bazar divided into the following groups.

1.	Brahman—	14	households
2.	Kshatriya—	13	,,
3.	Karan—	15	,,
4.	Chasa—	8	,,
5.	Gauda—	3	,,
6.	Teli—	4	,,
7.	Gudia—	7	,,
8.	Bhandari—	3	,,
9.	Dhoba—	5	,,
10.	Mochi—	5	,,
11.	Bauri—	10	,,
12.	Hadi—	10	,,
13.	Andhra—	23	,,
14.	Bengali—	7	,,
15.	Marwari—	6	,,
16.	Gujarati—	4	,,
17.	Christian—	5	,,
18.	Muslim—	4	,,
	Total :	146	households

It has been necessary to follow, as far as practicable, the census categories of occupations for the study of occupational change. In the table given below, it may be noted that traditional occupation, as prescribed by the caste rules, claim only 6 of the employed—3 from Brahman and 3 from Gauda castes, When a traditional occupation like hair cutting by visiting the patrons at home is substituted by running or by serving a hair cutting saloon, this is taken as an instance of modified traditional occupation. The second category concerns 25 employed, 3 from Gudia, 7 from Bhandari, 7 from Dhoba, and 8 from Mochi castes. As cultivation has no scope in this area any longer, not even the cultivating caste, Chasa, adheres to it. Of course, the occupation of cultivation refers to the land owners, who may cultivate their land with the help of labourers. Coming to the occupations of service, we may differentiate between bureaucratic service and technocratic service. Under bureaucrats we include officials, clerks, administrators and executives, includinng teachers, Government Lawyers and Government Doctors and under technocrats, Engineers, foremen, mechanics etc. under bureaucratic employment we find 7 Brahmans, 9 Kshatriyas, 11 Karans, 7 Bengalis and 5 Christians, totalling 39 of the employed, Technocrats come to a total of 30, of whom 9 are Brahmans, 6 Kshatriyas, 9 Karans, 4 Bengalis and 2 Christians, Thus those who are in services, whether as bureaucrats or as technocrats, come from the same ethnic groups. Industry and industrial farm claim only 7 employed, 2 from Kshatriya, 1 from Karan and 4 from Chasa Trades end commerce, however, is popular among the Merla Bazar people with 2 Brahmans, 5 Kshatriyas, 2 Karans, 8 Chasas 7 Telis, 4 Gudias, 9 Marwaris, 6 Gujaratis and 5 Muslims in these occupations—totaling 48 of the employed. In trade and commerce only the proprietors have been taken into account, and under industry and industrial farm small scale and cottage industries are also included Under the category of independent workers like self-employed lawyers, social workers, doctors, etc. there are 5 employed, 2 among the Brahman, 1 among the Kshatriya, and 2 among the Karan The menial workers, comprising rickshaw pullers, domestic servants, shop boys and daily labourers, constitute the largest single occupational category among the employed. Their number is 121 out of the total employed 281. Though there are menial workers from among the Brahman, Teli, Bengali, Marwari, Gujarati and Christians, those from Andhra constitute the largest number of 45 and Hadi scavangers next in importance with 23 and the Bauri accounting for 18 of them. Out of the rest of the menial workers the Kshatri a provide 2, Karan-2, Chasa-8, Gauda-4, Gudia-6, Bhandari-3, Dhoba-2, Mochi-4, and the Muslim-4.

This picture of the distribution of occupations among the people of Merla Bazar as a whole, covers all the 146 households found there. Here a household stands for an independent establishment for one or more members living together, if more than one resident live at a plate, without forming even a smallest family of husband, wife and child. Most of the single member households are found in the slum areas, where most of the menial workers stay in poor lodgings in an over-croweed space. Most of the shops in Merla Bazar are located along the east-west road crossing the developed or the built-up area.

It may be noted that only 6 persons, 3 among the Brahman and 3 among the

Gauda, are still sticking to the traditional occupations, whereas 25 persons are still loyal to their traditional occupation in a modified form. Very interestingly the shoe makers or the Mochi, Dhoba, Bhandari, and sweet meet seller Gudia are pursuing only modified traditional occupations and not their traditional occupations. Our statistics on traditional occupation are not fully reliable as the Marwari and Gujarat businessmen have been shown under the category' trade and commerce and not under the 'traditional occupation', although their traditional occupation is supposed to be trade and commerce.

Thus we find that the range of occupations in Meria Bazar today extends from street sweeping and scavenging to priesthood, from rickshaw pulling and day labour to professorship or advocacy.

In the past, the area was not affected seriously by the influx of homeless menial workers or by the moneyed men or service holders from various states in India. Therefore it may be plausible to paint the picture of a more or less homogeneous village-like society, under the hegemony of the landlord Biswal family. The various caste groups, who were sponsored for settlement in Meria Bazar area about 120 to 150 years back by the then zamindar, must have been tied together in the bonds of vertical solidarity and under the conditions of "Jajmani" relationship in ritual services. The introduction of the capitalistic market economy and the incorporation of Meria Bazar into Cuttack Municipality, plus the developing economy and technology through the British days to the present must be responsible for transforming a small scale homogeneous, inward-looking, integrated community into a heterogeneous, outward—looking part of a large-scale society, that is, of Cuttack city.

Co-operation and Conflict :

In any small scale, homogeneous and closely integrated community, the bases of co-operation will be many and overlapping. If Cuttack is a town incorporating what were originally villages (according to some authorities, 7 villages), co-operation in various levels of community living must have been the order of the day. But as it happens, the neighbouring villages do often find themselves in the position of rivalry for the same scare resources like land, irrigation, ritual prestige or ceremonial precedence etc. etc. But the conflicts may rise even within the same community along this split in authority structure or along the lines of distribution of resources etc.

Although an account of Meria Bazar neighbourhood cannot be completed without narrating the spheres of co-operation and collaboration as also the fields of conflict, we are not in a position to give a detailed picture of co-operation and conflict within Meria Bazar and-between Meria Bazar and other neighbouring wards.

The neighbourhood of Meria Bazar may be said to consist of core residents and fringe residents. The core residents include the permanent residents occupying their own houses, partly or wholly, and the long standing tenants in the permanent houses in Meria Bazar on the other hand the fringe residents comprise the highly mobile workers and temporary lodgers in slum areas and elsewhere in

Merla Bazar. The shop-keepers, who have a stake in a smooth and stable social atmosphere, belong to the core residents in their behaviour patterns and values centring round Merla Bazar locality, though they may not be, strictly speaking, the residents of the area.

Co-operation among the core residents is essential in organizing some community festivals, and cultural performance. The rituals of Barei Thakurani or at the temple of Radha Krishna. as also the organization of Durga Puja, Kali Puja, Ganesha Puja and Saraswati Puja etc. call for such co-operation. The same is true when organizing Jatra or the club performing a drama. The core residents have to contribute financially and share the burden of work in an organized fashion. Again the core residents have collaberated and pooled their efforts to secure Tarmac Road, electrical street lighting or a school etc. in the area. In the same manner the temple of Radha Krishna, Puja Mandapa or the Shrine of Boral Thakurani are the result of co-operation within Merla Bazar. At the time of periodical elections to the Assembly, Lok Sabha or the Municipal Council, the political parties are reported to have contributed funds or exerted their efforts for getting the road repaired, fixing passage slabs over the drained canal etc. under pressure of the leading residents of Merla Bazar, motivated by the common good of the community.

The fringe residents may not taken the leadership of organizing the festivals and rituals, but they are known to have contributed subscription on most occasions. At the time of election the landlords who let out lodgings and houses and the local youth leaders usually try to impress upon the political parties that they are representing their interests and influencing their voting behaviours, so that the interests of Merla Bazar neighbourhood may be served.

There are some social occassions like marriages and funerals, when neighbouring families co-operate and participate, even across caste lines. But usually at the time of marriage in the house of core residents, other co-residents are definitely invited, as in a village, and even the slum dwell rs become the marginal participants in the marriage feasts.

However, even when co-operation prevails on occasions of festivals, rituals and social ceremonies, conflicts are not rare among the participants and collaborators. At the time of demarcation of plots, construction of buildings or over the sharing of common lanes and entrances, conflicts arise as in the villages.

But it is possible to locate a line of cleavage among the core-residents, and especially among the house owners, which has resulted in two formal, often dormant factions in the neighbourhood. The leadership of the area was automatically vested inthe old zamindar family who owned the lands in Merla Bazar. Who ever came to settle down in Merla Bazar or hired a house there, was a tenant of the zamindar. Later on, lands were sold to the tenants and the outsiders, so that in the recent past another well-to-do family with a lot of Merla Bazar land under its possession, has emerged as another locus of power and leadership in the area. However, the emergence of the local youth club bringing together the youngmen of both the factions, has worked as the cementing factor in the

neighbourhood. And it is to be noted that it is the young members of the club who take the initiative in organizing co-operative ventures including holding of festivals and rituals.

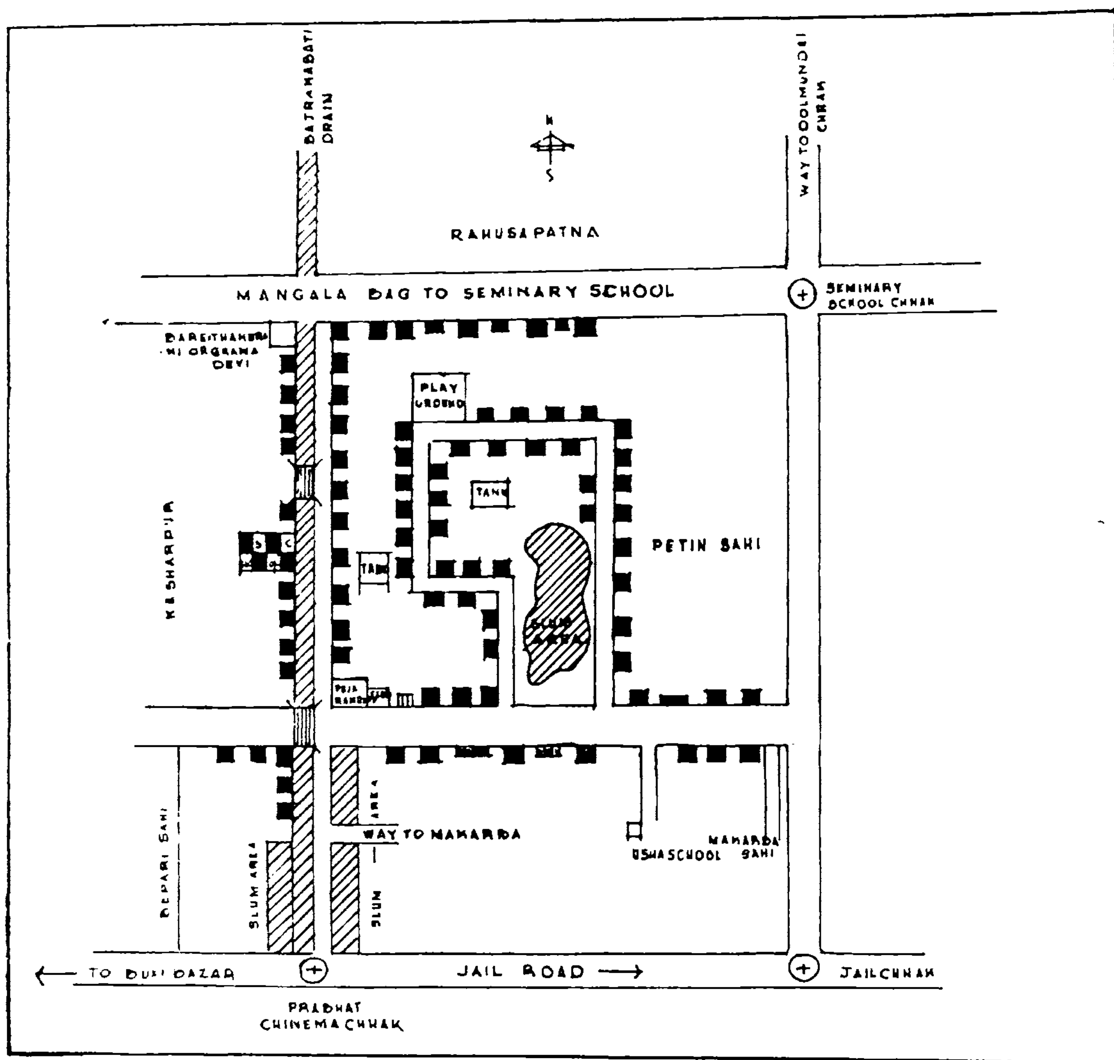
As noted above, the conflicts may be between the neighbouring wards also. The sources and traditions of conflict most often go back to the ancient past when the present-day wards were the villages of yesterdays. Without going into the details at this preliminary stage of our investigation. we may emphasis the strong roots of the intervillage conflicts, now-a-days taking the form of inter-ward ones. As recently as during the last month, there had been a serious conflict between Merla Bazar, Kesharpur, Makarba Sahi, Petin Sahi and Rahuspatna on the one hand, and Machhua Bazar, Buxi Bazar and Banla Sahi, on the other.

Merla Bazar, A Developing Slum :

We have noted above and inthe sketch of Merla Bazar that there are two areas of slums within Meria Bazar ward. the total slum population being 297. Of them 82 do not remain in family in that sahi as well as in that slum area. These two slum areas exemplify almost all the characteristics of slum according to the description of Ne!s Andrson. The United Nations define the slum as "a building, group of building, or area characterized by overcrowding, deterioration, unsanitary conditions or absence of facilities or amenities which, because of these conditions or any of them. endanger, the health, safety, or morals of its inhabitants or the community". Extreme overcrowding, unhygienic living, without minimum facilities of public bath and latrines, socially and morally isolated from the main stream, living in improvised mud huts or tin shanties, with a pitiably low income and level of living, and at the mercy of the landlords who owned the land and the huts, the two slum areas fulfil almost all the main characteristics of the slum. Year after year job-seeking youngmen and adults come in, with a little hope or helping hand from their friends and relatives in the same slums. They cannot afford to stay elsewhere and the floating population in the slum must be as many, if not more, as the people who have taken on rent a hut or a room.

Though it is not known in our preliminary study, whether the slums are increasing in area and are eating into the developed area, we have atleast the evidence of the growth of a slum within the developed area in Merla Bazar. We refer here to the slum pocket in the North East corner of Merla Bazar, away from the open drain and enclosed by substantial buildings of the core-residents.

If this growth be considered as a malignant one, a pathological formation, and unless the necessary steps are not taken to contain its growth, if not to eliminate it altogether, there is no doubt that in the near future Merla Bazar, suitably placed along the filth canal, will bloom into a full-blown SLUM.


BATRAHABATI
DRAIN
WAY TO DOLMUNDAI
CHHAK
N
S
RAHUSAPATNA
MANGALA BAG TO SEMINARY SCHOOL
SEMINARY
SCHOOL CHHAK
PLAY
GROUND
TANK
PETIN SAHI
SLUM
AREA
KESHARPUR
SLUM AREA
WAY TO MAHANADA
USHA SCHOOL
MAHANADA
SAHI
SLUM
AREA
TO BUXI BAZAR
JAIL ROAD
JAILCHHAK
PRABHAT
CHINEMA CHHAK

Cuttack-Bhubaneswar Urban Complex

SHRI S N. TRIPATHY
&
Dr. B.N. SINHA
Utkal University.

Introduction :

A complex is a set of activities at a specific location which are linked by cartain technical and production interrelations. These interrelations may be such that spatial juxtaposition of the activities in the complex leads to substantial economies. As regional problems become more complex and public involvement in their solution more deeply committed, regional industrial or urban development strategy is tending to become more sophisticated. In certain cases, certain areas are assistad by the subsidized transfer of selected urban activities and hence, some new towns or satellite towns of the parent urban system have been grown up. Therefore, greater emphasis is being placed on the search for the optimum spatial allocation of investment in industrial (urban) development, generally involving the creation of a system of growth points as a means towards the integration of the space economy.

The areal concentration of urban activity often provides urban units with collective benefits that they would not be able to enjoy in isolated location. These take the form of "external economies" as opposed to the "inter economies" that an urbanite may create within his own organisation. The agglomeration economies may be classified into four types L (*a*) transfer economies, arising from savings in transport costs because of the proximity of different urban units; (*b*) internal economies of scale large enough for some single urban units to create a town or city; (c) immobile external economies of scale the firm which arise from the expansion of its own activity in a particular place; and (*d*) the external economies of scale available to many types of urban activities which reduce costs as different activities grown up in one place. The concern here is with the last two of these types—the case of an agglomeration involving one activity or a group of closely related activities, and rhe more general question of the advantages that an urban unit in any type of activity may gain from locality in some large urban—industrial complex like a major city or metropolitan region. To the former type of term "economies of localization" is sometimes applied, while the latter are described as urbanisation economies.[1]

1. Isard, W., Location and Space Economy (Cambridge : M.I.G. Press, 1956) P. 172.

Urban complex defined :

An urban complex may be defined as a set of economic activities occuring at a given location and belonging to a group of industries that reap external economies as a result of production, marketing, administration and such other linkages. Development of urban activities based on varied types of socio-economic characteristic also helps in the emergence of an urban-complex.

The structure of an urban complex can be determind by a general knowledge of techno-socio-economic relationships. Again an urban complex cannot be considered to have a fixed structure regardless of location, its composition, and the complex changes between regions with varying factor proportions; scale economies and differences of urbanisation. Regional planning is urban induatrial planning in its resource—activity-product aspect. The urban complex is the most advanced centre of industrial and other economic activities. These must be studied with particular reference to inter-urban dependence, resource and economic-base, infre-structure, and economic reletionships for effecting economy in production and regional growth.

The urban-complex region is one which has got many urban centres located closely but yet to centralisation of all economic activities or functionel activities, etc. in one centre and depending on each other in such activities. Such a region has been identified in the Orissa coastal plain taking Bhubaneswar as the central point. Within a 60 Km. radius of Bhubaneswar there are five urban centres, out of which two are cities having more than 100 thousend population. In between these two cities there are two important growth points.

Location and size :

This region lies between 20°20'40" N to 20°31'20' N latitudes and 85°45'20' E to 85°56'40' E longitudes having an area of 1631·39 Sq. Kms. physically it lies in the central part of the Orissa coastal plain comprising most of the areas of the Mahanadi Delta. The region is delineated by the 75m. contourline in the rest and in the weat the line joining the bifurcation points of the rivers like Daya-Bhargabi, Bhargabi-Kushbhadra, Sarua-Kathjuri and Mahanadi-Birupa. It is bounded by the Baruni Hill in the south and the Nirgundi-Talcher Railway line in the north. This region includes 210·63 Sq. Kms. of urbanized area having five urban centres and 1420·75 Sq. Kms. of urbanisable area having 717 villages.

Regional Growth :

Table—I gives the growth of population of thia region since 1901. The table reveals that Bhubaneswar and Jatni became urban in 1951 registering a small population size. Khurda and Choudwar became town in 1961. But Cuttack has kept its primacy being the largest City of Orissa. But from the point of view of population growth, Cuttack has a slow rate of growth having a total percentage growth of 162·49% from 1901 to 1971. But Bhubaneswar has registered a rapid growth having a total parcentage growth of 307·48% from 1951 to 1971 within a span of two decades. Likewise Jatni has registered a rapid growth having a total percentage growth of 147·13% since 1951. Choudwar, though it became a town in 1961, it has also registered a rapid growth having a total percentage growth of 80·29%. Among all the towns, Khurda has a slow rate of growth having a total percentage of growth of 27·06%.

TABLE—I

Growth of population of urban centres in the Urban-complex Region since 1901

Year	Bhubaneswar		Cuttack		Choudwar		Jatni		Khurda	
	Population	% decade growth	Population	% decade growth	Population	% decade growth	Population	% decade growth	Population	% decade growth
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1901	51,364	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1911	52,528	+2·27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1921	51,007	- 2·90	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1931	65,263	+27·95	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1941	74,291	+13 83	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1951	102,505	+37·98	16.512	—	—	—	9.975	—	—	—
1961	146,308	+42·73	38.211	+131·41	13,478	—	16,068	+61·08	12,497	—
1971	205,759	+40·63	105,491	+176·07	24,300	+80·29	29,894	+86·05	15 879	+27 06
Percentage growth from 1901-71		162·49		307·48		80·29		147·13		27·06

Population potential :

Stewart refers to population potential of a point as a measure of the nearness of people to that point, as a measure of general accessibility or as a measure of influence of people at a distance. With a grouped data, population potential at a point may be described as :

$$P.V. = P\left(\frac{P_1}{D_1} + \frac{P_2}{D_2} + \frac{P_3}{D_3} + \frac{P_n}{D_n}\right)$$

Were, P.V. = Population potential of the point

P. = Population of the point

$P_1 P_2 P_3 P_n$ = Population of the adjoining urban centres

$D_1 D_2 D_3 D_n$ = Distance between the urban centres and the point

The Population distribution pattern around Bhubaneswar reveals that the population potential (Table—2) is very high in between Bhubaneswar and Cuttack compared to the other corriders like Bhubaneswar-Khurda, Bhubaneswar-Jatni etc. Table 2 reveals that the population potential between Bhubaneswar and Cuttack is 43000 persons per Kilometre, Choudwar 40000 persons/Km., Khurda 18000 persons/Km. and Jatni 37000 persons per Km.

The high degree concentration of population potential on Bhubaneswar-Cuttack axis may be due to :

(a) Proximity i.e. 35 Km. distance between the two cities.

(b) Availability of (i) combination of rail National Highway and other major roads; (ii) Development of land for different economic and urban uses; (iii) Hydro-electric and thermal power; (iv) Water-supply; (v) Direct phone connections (vi) Other transportation and communication facilities.

(c) These two urban units are proceeding in the form of back to back development.

(d) Maximum interdependence on account of service, commerce and transport.

(e) Overcoming the natural barriers like a number of rives and streams; and

(f) Several other potential and propensity factors.

TABLE—2 (a)

Population potential pattern around Bhubaneswar, 1971.

Urban Centre	Distance in Kms.*				
	P_1	P_2	P_3	P_4	P_5
P_1 Bhubaneswar	3	35	50	25	40
P_2 Cuttack	35	2	15	60	75
P_3 Choudwar	50	15	1	75	90
P_4 Khurda	25	60	75	2	15
P_5 Jatni	40	75	90	15	1

* "Within" urban centre distance must be included and it is approximately ½ of the length of the longest axis across the area of the urban centre.

Urban Centre	Urban Population (Nearest thousand)	P_1	P_2	P_3	P_4	P_5
P_1	106	35	3	2	4	2·5
P_2	206	5·9	103	13·7	3·4	2·7
P_3	24	0·5	1·6	24	0·3	0·3
P_4	16	0·6	0·3	0·2	8	1
P_5	30	0·7	0·4	0·3	2	30
Population potential to nearest full number		43	108	40	18	37

As indicated by high population growth and high degree of population potential concentration, these five urban centres are best suited for ribbob-development. So it should be essentially integrated while developing these urban centres as the members of the urban-complex region.

Economic Characteristics :

The economic characteristics of the five urban centres can be seen from the Table No. 3. In 1971 the participation rate of working force in Bhubaneswar was 31·5%, in Cuttack 30·3%, in Choudwar 41·7%, in Jatni 30·1% and in Khurda 25·0%, while the State participation rate was 31·22%. The workers of different economiccategories and their percentage to total workers are also revealed from the Table No. 3.

TABLE No. 3

Economic Charateristics of the urban centres in the urban complex—1971

Characteristics	Bhubaneswar	Cuttack	Choudwar	Jatni	Khurda
A. General					
1. Area (In Sq. Km.)	65·03	73·32	31·08	15·82	25·38
2. Population	105·491	205.759	24,300	29·894	15,879
3. Density per Sq.Km.	1,622	2,806	782	1,890	626
4. Total workers	33,818	61,846	9.568	8,610	4,304
5. % of workers to total population	31·5	30·3	41·7	30·1	25·0

B. Categories of	No. of workers	% to total	No. of workers	% to total	No. of workers	% to total	No. of workers	% to total	No. of workers	% to total
I. Cultivators.	1,420	4 6	457	0·7	459	4·7	377	4·5	469	10·8
II. Agricultural labourers.	2.185	6·3	971	1·5	602	6·2	492	5·8	933	21·7
III. Livestock, Forestry, Fishing hunting & plantation, Orchards and Allied activities.	1,357	3·8	1,394	2·2	203	2·18	19	0·25	146	3·4
IV. Mining and Quarrying.	156	0·3	19	0 03	2	0·02	4	0·05	37	0·9
V. Manufacturing, Processing, Servicing and Repairing										
(a) Household Industry.	415	1 2	2.871	4·67	117	1·2	187	3·6	204	4·8
(b) Other than H. H. Industry.	1,878	5 3	9·234	14·9	5,702	60·0	529	6·0	293	6·8
VI. Construction.	1.742	5 0	1,621	2·8	126	1·2	209	3·5	78	1·7
VII. Trade and Commerce.	5.636	16·5	15,539	25·2	904	9·3	1.506	17·8	713	16·6
VIII. Transport, Storage and Communication.	2.558	7·5	7,705	12·4	183	2·0	2,943	34·3	245	5·7
IX. Other Services.	16,471	48 5	22·035	35·6	1.270	13.2	2,074	24·2	1.186	27·6

C. Functional Classification of towns	Service-cum-Trade and Commerce	Service-cum-Trade and Commerce	Manufacturing other than Household Industry	Transport-cum-Service-cum-Trade and Commerce	Service-cum-Agricultural Labourer-cum-Trade and Commerce

Towns have varied population sizes. There are two cities (Cuttack and Bhubaneswar) or Class I towns having more than 100,000 population. There are two class III towns (Jatni and Choudwar) having population of more than 20,000 and there is one Class V town (Khurda) having the population more than 10,000.

Having seen the size classification of towns and the proportion of urban population under each class, it will be an interesting exercise to attempt a functional classification of towns and see if any correbation is possible between such a classification and the growth rate of population. There are nine economic categories under which towns can be clasaified. But mainly there are five main functions under which towns can be classified. These are (*i*) Primary or agricultural activity (*ii*) Industry (*iii*) Trade and commerce, (*iv*) transport and communication (*v*) services. One of these functions may constitute the predominant occupation of the people of a town, or two major functions in combination may represent the principal characgeristic of a town, or several such functions may exist in the town. The first category is known at mono-functional, the second bi-functional and the third multi-functional. In this respect Choudwar is mono-functional with manufacturing other than household industry as its main function; Cuttack and Bhubaneswar are bi-functional with service and trade and commerce as their main functions; Jatni is multi-functional with transpost, service and trade and commerce as its main functions and so also Khurda is multi-functional with service, agricultural labourer and trade and commerce as its main functions.

Functional Interrelationships :

Functional characters of these urban places show that Cuttack, even though the largest city in this region depends on Bhubaneswar for higher educational and service facilities, on Jatni for commercial and service facilities, on Khurda and Choudwar for service facilities. Likewise Bhubaneswar depends on Cuttack for superior medical facilities, commercial and service facilities; on Khurda, Jatni and Choudwar for service and commercial facilities. Hence a system of interdependency has been developed among the five urban centres of this region.

Hence, a heterogeneous polycentric urban region has emerged which can be named as the "urban complex". It will be very difficult to analyse all the complex urban characteristics. But the analysis gives certain pertinent points which should be realised. The first point is that metropolitan regions or urban agglomeration have mixed economic elements. One central characteristic of most of the towns either developing or developed countries is their economic diversity and lack of any single dominant economic base. This will tend further growth of the region. And (2) The second point concerns with the inner form or morpholog of this region. Here, the region is a multi-centred urban complex, where there was only one city (Cuttack) till 1951. After 1951 other towns came into existence, out of which Bhubaneswar became a city in 1971. This urban complex seems to be more viable for planning and control of developments of the present day urbanisation, especially in a developing economy like in India. Because it has flexibility in spatial planning and coordination with economic development. Moreover, this kind of region has got more capability of holding the large and substained increase of population than single centred urban place. Therefore, a

region like Cuttack-Bhubaneswar urban complex invites bold challenges from the regional planners, for a broad strategy to develop this urban complex by adopting integrated development plans.

Development plans for the Urban Complex :

The proposals for the development of the urban-complex are as follows :

(i) These five urban centres are to be developed with an aim to become one major urban region. It should be considered as a growth pole from the point of economic development of this region and the economic effects should be spread to the relatively backward areas of the two districts (Cuttack and Puri) of Orissa. This growth pole should serve as a central place for providing higher order facilities for the whole of the State.

(ii) The industrialization and the socio-economic facilities are to be concentrated in this region and a spatial pattern has to be evolved to develop this region in a planned manner.

(iii) To develop this region, a regional development plan should be adopted. This regional plan should be a basic structural plan which will provide basic infra-structure (roads, railways, water-supply, drainage, electricity etc.); broad functional zones (residential, commercial, industrial etc) and the various recreational potential points within this region.

(iv) To link Bhubaneswar with Cuttack a bridge should be constructed over the Kuakhai River by the side of the Main Canal coming from Munduli or by the side of the existing railway bridge over the Kuakhai. So the N.H. 5 which is now passing through Bhubaneswar, separating the city into two parts and having a long distance from Cuttack to Bhubaneswar can be diverated through this bridge to the existing Orissa Trunk Road which is going to Khurda directly. By this way, the distance between Cuttack and Bhubaneswar will be shorten to half (about 15 Kms.) and the N.H.5. will not run through the institutional and residental zones of Bhubaneswar City, but along the periphery of the City.

(v) From the point of view of recereational facilities and open spaces, Nandan-Kanan, biological garden with a natural environment can be developed. By the direct access from Cuttack to the proposed bridge over the Kuakhai, this place will serve the people of the region as well as the tourists in a better way.

(vi) In between Choudwar and Cuttack, there are a large number of dipositional uplands (river islands) over the beds of the Mahanadi and the Birupa, which can be changed in to parks and recreational grounds.

(vii) This region can be developed by providing electrified trains from Choudwar to Jatni so as te cater the mass-transportation needs of the urban sector.

(viii) Simfiarly proposals can be made to develop different industries at Barang, Phulnakhara, Telengapentha, Patia, Choudwar, Jatni and Khurda by which a fulfledged urbanisation process will be possible.

To translate thesa proposals for the development of this complex, an effective osganisation for plan preparation and for plan implementation is very essential. The town and country planning organisation may seek other possibilities to devalop this region by consulting the Government or Semi-Government specialised persons of the State.

Summary :

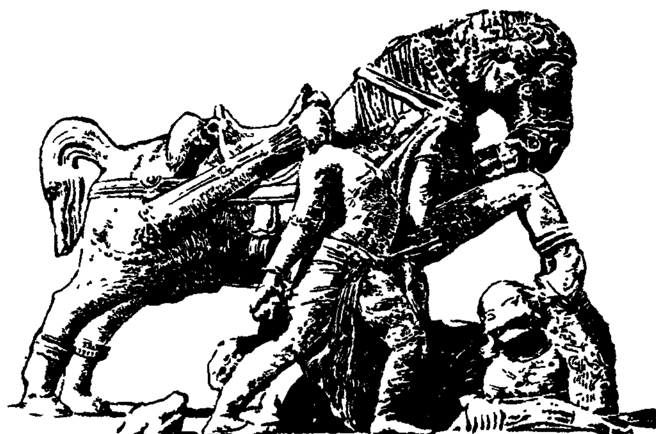
The present study is an attempt to discuss various aspects of the "Urban Complex" which is rightly regarded as a unique urban region.

As regards the terminolog, the idea has been brought from the Industrial Complex analysis by Walter-Isard. Hence an urban complex denotes a large and continuously urbanised region with some urbanisable tracts resulting from the coalescaence of several adjacent towns, where maximum linkages and interdependence among the towns are found.

Great industrial and technological developments accelerated urbanisation and in consequence citiea and towns registered enormous increase in area and population. Incourse of time a large dominating town, during the course of its rapid expansion, engulfed the built up areas of the nearby small or big towns. But in some cases a number of towns or cities have exppanded and united together to form the multinucleatred urban region which is named as urban-complex.

After having considered the evolutionary procusses, and factors favouring its growth, generai and economic characteristics of the urban-complex have been analysed in detail. Practically the urban compiex is characterized by the physical as well as socio-economic unity of the verious components which, though administratively independent, are functionally interdependeent.

In the end, some development plan proposals have been suggested by which a *fulfledged urbanisation* process will be possible.



ଏକ ସମ୍ବୋଧନ

ଶ୍ରୀ ନିମାଇଁ ଚରଣ ପାଣି
(ଚିଫ୍ ଇଂଜିନିୟର)
ବୃହତ୍ତର କଟକ ଉନ୍ନୟନ ସଂସ୍ଥା

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ପୂତି ଗନ୍ଧେ ଭରପୂର, କୁଢ କୁଢ ଆବର୍ଜନା ମୟ,
ତୁମ ଦେହ କି ଅସନା, ମଛିଆର ଶାଶ୍ୱତ-ଆଳୟ
ନାଳ ଗନ୍ଧେ ଶ୍ୱାସ ରୋଧ, ହେଲେ କ୍ଷତ ମଶାଙ୍କ ଦଂଶନେ,
ତୁମକୁ ପାଉଛି ଭଲ, କାହିଁକି ବା ନିଜେ ମୁଁ ନ ଜାଣେ ।
ହେ ମୋ ସହର, କଟକ ନଗର ।
ଏ ବନ୍ଧନ ତୁମ ସାଥେ ସତେ କେଉଁ ଜନ୍ମ ଜନ୍ମାନ୍ତର ।

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ମହାନଦୀ କାଠଯୋଡ଼ୀ ନୀରଧାର ପୟର ପଖାଳେ,
ତୃଷାତୁର ମାତ୍ର ତୁମେ ଦୁଃଖଲାଗେ ତୁମକୁ ଦେଖିଲେ
ଘର୍ମ ସିକ୍ତ ପଚ୍ୟମାନ ତୁମ ଦେହ ବିଭତ୍ସ ବିକଟ,
କାହାପାଇଁ ଅଭିମାନ ପ୍ରିୟତମ, ନଗର କଟକ ।
ତୁମେ ପରା ଧବଳ ଟଗର
ସ୍ୱଚ୍ଛ ନୀରେ ଦିଅ ମ ଜି ସ୍ୱେଦ ସିକ୍ତ ତୁମ କଳେବର ।

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ପୁରାତନୁ ଥାଏ ଯଦି ଖ୍ୟାତସାରେ ପୁରାତନ ତର,
ସେ କାଳର ସାକ୍ଷୀ ତୁମେ ଇତିହାସେ ଅକ୍ଷୟ ଅମର
ଦୁଇନଦୀ ମୃତ୍ତିକାର ପର୍ଯ୍ୟାୟିତ ସ୍ନିଗ୍ଧ ଆସ୍ତରଣେ,
ଜୀବନ ଝଂକାର ତୁମ ଶୁଭିଥିଲା କାଶତଣ୍ଡୀ ବନେ
ଭ୍ରାମ୍ୟମାଣ ମନୁଷ୍ୟର ପଦ
ତୁମ ବକ୍ଷେ ସରଜିଲା ଅଭିନବ ଏକ ଜନପଦ ।

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ସେ କାଳର ଜନ ପଦ ଆଜିର ଏ ବିରାଟ ନଗର,
ଯାହା ବିଚ୍ଛି ବ୍ୟବଧାନ ହିସାବ କେ ରଖିଛି ତାହାର ?
କେତେ ରାଜା ମହାରାଜା କେତେ ଧନୀ ମାନୀ ଅଭିମାନୀ
ସାଧୁ ସନ୍ଥ ସାଧବର ଲୀଳାୟିତ ଏଇ ବଂଶ ଭୂମି
କେତେ ଜାତି—ଦେଶୀ ଓ ବିଦେଶୀ,
ଶାସିଲେ ଏ ବସୁନ୍ଧର ବାହୁବଳେ ଅରାତି ବିନାଶି ।

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ରକତ ରଞ୍ଜିତ ଛବି ଦେଖିଛି ଏ ମହାନଦୀ ନୀର,
ଅଶ୍ରୁମୟ ପତନର ସାକ୍ଷୀ ଅଛି ବାରବାଟୀ ଦ୍ବାର
ଯେ ଶିଳାରେ ଥିଲା ଯାଚ୍ଛି କମ୍ରପଦ, ବିକଚ ଯୌବନା,
ଆଜି ତହିଁ ରଜକିନୀ କାଚେ ଲୁଗା ମଇଳା ଅସନା ।
ମନୋରମ ହର୍ମ୍ୟ ନବତଳ,
ଉଗ୍ନସ୍ତୂପ ବୁକେ ଆଜି ବିଚରଇ ଅରଣ୍ୟ ଶୃଗାଳ

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ଦେଖିଥିଲ ରାଜାରାଣୀ ସୁଲତାନ ପେଶବା ସାହେବ,
ମହିଷୀ ବେଗମ ଦଳ ଗନ୍ତାଘରେ ଅଶେଷ ବିଭବ
ଦଣ୍ଡଧର ଦୌବାରିକ ପୋତ ସାଥେ ଧନୀ ସୌଦାଗର,
ହସୁଥିଲା ହେମ ଶସ୍ୟେ ତୁମ ତନୁ କୋମଳ ଉର୍ବର
ଅତୀତର ଯବନିକା ଟାଣି
ଯାଏ କହି ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ଶୁଣ ବଂଧୁ ଏ ଯୁଗର ବାଣୀ ।

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ତୁମ କୋଳ ଆଶ୍ରାକରି ଯେତେଥିଲେ ନିରନ୍ନ କାଂଗାଳ
ଯାର ନେତ୍ରୁ ବହୁଥିଲା ଅବାରିତ ମହାନଦୀ ଜଳ
ତୁମ ଉପକଂଠ କ୍ଷେତେ ଖଟୁଥିଲେ ଯେତେ କୃଷାଣ'ବା
ସର୍ବେ ଆଜି ଏକଯୁଟ ମାଗିବାକୁ ଜୀବନର ଦାବୀ
ଏ ସମାଜେ ନାହିଁ ଅନ୍ୟଗତି,
ଧ୍ବଂସେ। ରଂକୀ ଧନୀ ମାନୀ ଆମେ ସବୁ ତୁମର ସନ୍ତତି ।

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ତୁମରି ପଠିର ପରେ ଥାଉଛି ମୁଁ ମଧୁର କୁଟୀରେ
ତୁମରି ମୃଣ୍ମୟ ଗର୍ଭରେ ମୁହିଁ ନିତ୍ୟ ଆବେଗେ ବିହ୍ବଳେ
ହେ ମାଟି ପବିତ୍ର ବେଦୀ ବୀର ରକ୍ତେ ହୋଇ ରସାଣିତ
ଯା'ର ଆସ୍ତରଣ ତଳେ ଶ୍ରମ ସ୍ବେଦ ଅଶ୍ରୁ ପୁଞ୍ଜୀଭୂତ
ହେ ଶୃଙ୍ଖଳ କୁଳବୃଦ୍ଧ ଋଷି
ଭିକ୍ଷା ମାଗେ ନାଗରିକ ରକ୍ଷାକର କରୁଣା ବରଷି ।

କଟକ ସହରର ବିକାଶ ପଥରେ
ଗୋଟିଏ ନୂତନ ସମସ୍ୟା

ଡାକ୍ତର ସୁଧାକର ଆଚାର୍ଯ୍ୟ
(ସଭ୍ୟ, [illegible] [illegible] ଉନ୍ନୟନ ସଂସ୍ଥା)

ଗତ କେତେମାସ ଧରି କଟକ ସହରରେ ଗୋଟିଏ ସାମାଜିକ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନ ସୃଷ୍ଟି ହୋଇଛି । କଟକ ସହରର ଉନ୍ନୟନ ନାମରେ କେତେଗୁଡ଼ିଏ ହଠାତ୍ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] । ଗୋଟିଏ ଦିନ ହଠାତ୍ ଦେଖିଲେ ଦେଖିବେ କଟକ ସହରରେ ଭାରି ହୋ-ହଲ୍ଲା । [illegible] ପାଇଁ ରାସ୍ତା ଚଉଡ଼ା କରିବାକୁ ପ୍ରକାଣ୍ଡ ପ୍ରକାଣ୍ଡ ଘର ସରକାର ଭାଙ୍ଗି ପକାଉଛନ୍ତି । [illegible] [illegible] ଘରୋଇ ପୋଡ଼ାପିଟି ଦେଉଛନ୍ତି । ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କ ଜଳ ପାଣି ରାସ୍ତା ଉପରକୁ ମାଡ଼ି [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] ପଡ଼ାକରି ଦିଆଯାଉଛି । [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] ହୋଇ ଯାଇଛି । ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କ [illegible] [illegible] ଗୋଟିଏ [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] । [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] ଓ [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] ଠିଆ ହୋଇଛି । [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] ହୋଇଥିବେ । [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] କ'ଣ [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] ? [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] । [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] ଓ [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] । [illegible] [illegible] ଗୋଟିଏ ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] । [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] କଟକ ସହରର [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] କ'ଣ ଗୋଟିଏ [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] ଗୋଟିଏ [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] । [illegible] ପରିଚିତ ହେଉଛି । [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] । [illegible] [illegible] ଗୋପବନ୍ଧୁ, ମଧୁସୂଦନ, [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] ଓ [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] । [illegible] [illegible] ଓ [illegible] [illegible] । [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] । ରାସ୍ତା କଟକ [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] ଓ [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] ଦୂରରେ ଅବସ୍ଥିତ [illegible] ପରିଚିତ [illegible] । [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] ହଠାତ୍ [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

ପାଖେ ମୁଣ୍ଡଟେକି ଛିଡ଼ା ହେଉଛି । କଟକ ସହରରେ ଅଟୋରିକ୍ସା, ମିନିବସ୍ ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ଚାଲିବ । ଏହିପରି ଆଉ ଅନେକ ଛୋଟବଡ଼ କଥା ।

ସମସ୍ୟା ଆଲୋଚନା କରିବାକୁ ଯାଇ ଉପକ୍ରମଟି ଦୀର୍ଘ ହୋଇଗଲା । ଆହୁରି ଦୀର୍ଘ ହୋଇଥାନ୍ତା । କାରଣ କାଠଯୋଡ଼ି ମହାନଦୀ ପଥରବନ୍ଧ ଉପରେ ବଳୟ ସଡ଼କ, ତିନିତାର (ତିନିତାରା ନୁହେଁ) ହୋଟେଲ, ଅନେକ ସିନେମାଘର, ବକ୍ସିବଜାର ସୁପର ମାର୍କେଟ, କଟକ ରେଳ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ଭିତରେ କୋଟିଏ ମିନି କଟକ ସହର । ଏହିପରି ଆହୁରି କେତେ କଣ । ଏଇଠି ଗୋଟିଏ କଥା କହିବି । ଏଇ କଟକରେ, ଝାଟି ଡାଟି ମାଟି ଘର, ପାଇଖାନା ମନୋଲୋଭ, ନାଳ ନର୍ଦ୍ଦମା, ମଶା ମାଛି ଓ ତା' ସାଙ୍ଗକୁ ବଡ଼ଲୋକ କୋଠାଭାଡ଼ିଆ (ସତରେ ସେମାନେ ବଡ଼ ନୁହନ୍ତି) ବାବୁ ଭାଇ, ବ୍ୟବସାୟୀ, ମାରୱାଡ଼ୀ, ଗୁଜୁରାଟୀ ଲୋକଙ୍କ ଅଟ୍ଟାଳିକା ଚୁନ୍ନା କୋଠା ଓ ସେଇମାନଙ୍କ ମଟରଗାଡ଼ି ଅଯୋଗ୍ୟ ଜୀବନ ଓ କେତେକଣ ରହିଛି । ତାହାରେ ମଣିଷ ଜୀବନ ଓ ଭିତରେ ପଶୁଜୀବନ (ଲୁଗା, ରୋଗ) ଚରବର ଚାଲୁ ରହିଛି । ଏଇ ସରକାର ବହୁଦିନୁ ରହିଛନ୍ତି । ଏଇ ମ୍ୟୁନିସିପାଲିଟି ରହିଛି । ଏଇ ସରକାରୀ କର୍ମଚାରୀ ଓ ପୁଲିସ ପଲଟନ ରହିଛନ୍ତି । ଏଇ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଏମ୍ ଏଲ୍ ଏ ଓ ଲୋକନେତା, କର୍ମୀ ରହିଛନ୍ତି । ଏଇ ନଗର ଉନ୍ନୟନ ସଂସ୍ଥା ଓ ତା ଉପରେ କର୍ତ୍ତୃପକ୍ଷ, ବହୁ ସରକାରୀ ଉଚ୍ଚ ତାଲିମପ୍ରାପ୍ତ ସରକାରୀ କର୍ମଚାରୀ ଓ ଅଫିସର ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱରରେ ଓ କଟକ ଅଫିସରେ ୧୯୬୨ ମସିହାରୁ ଫାଇଲ୍ ପରିଚାଳନା କରୁଥିଲେ । କେତେ ବଡ଼ ବଡ଼ ଯୋଜନା ଓ ଉଚ୍ଚ ତଥ୍ୟପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ମନ୍ତବ୍ୟ ଓ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶ ହେଉଥିବେ । କେଉଁଠି ଅଟକି ଥିଲା । କାହିଁକି କିଛି ହୋଇ ପାରୁ ନଥିଲା । ଏପରିକି ଅଫିସଗୃହ ପାଖ କଟକ ଅରୁଣୋଦୟ ମାର୍କେଟଟି ଉଡ଼ା ଲାଗି ପାରୁ ନଥିଲା ଓ ଯୁଦ୍ଧ ଗଣା ଚାଲିଥିଲା । ଏହାର ଉତ୍ତର ହେଉଛି ସମୟ ଆସିନଥିଲା । ବେଳ ହୋଇନଥିଲା । କଟକ ସହରର ନାଳ ନର୍ଦ୍ଦମା କଳୁଷିତ, ମଶା ମାଛି ଦଂଶିତ ସାଧାରଣ ଜନତାର ଆର୍ତ୍ତ କ୍ରନ୍ଦନ ଭଗବାନଙ୍କ ପାଖରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିନଥିଲା ।

ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ବେଳ ଆସିଛି । ଯେଉଁ ଶକ୍ତି ଏହି ପୃଥିବୀର ସ୍ଥୂଳକ୍ରିୟା (ରାଜ୍ୟ, ସରକାର, ନେତା ସାଧାରଣ ମାନବ ସମାଜ)କୁ ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣ କରୁଛି, ସେହି ଶକ୍ତି ସଜାଗ ହୋଇ ଉଠିଛନ୍ତି । ସେ ହେଉଛନ୍ତି କାଳପୁରୁଷ । ବୈଜ୍ଞାନିକ ପରିଭାଷାରେ ସମୟର ପ୍ରଗତିମୂଳକ ଆହ୍ୱାନ । କୌଣସି ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିବିଶେଷଙ୍କର ଏ କାରସାଦି ନୁହେଁ । ସେହି ଶକ୍ତିହିଁ ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଇନ୍ଦିରାଗାନ୍ଧୀ, ଆମ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ନନ୍ଦିନୀ ଶତପଥି । ତାଙ୍କ ସରକାରୀ କଳ ଓ ସମାଜର ଭିତ୍ତିଭୂମି ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କ ଧନ, ମନ, ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ଭିତରେ ପଶି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରୁଛି । କେତେକ ଜନସାଧାରଣ ବା ସାଇକଲ୍‌ର ଅଳ୍ପକେତେକ ମୁରବୀ ନେତା, ବିରୋଧୀ ଶକ୍ତି ବା ଆଇନ-କାନୁନର ପରିସର ଏଇ ଶକ୍ତିକୁ ରୋକିବାକୁ ଚାହିଁଲେ ବି ତାକୁ ରୋକି ପାରୁନି । ଯୋଉ ପ୍ରଗତି ବିରୋଧୀ, ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ ବିରୋଧୀ ଶକ୍ତି ହ୍ରାସ ପାଉଛି, ଦୁର୍ବଳ ହେଉଯାଉଛି । ଅନେକ ଶକ୍ତିଶାଳୀ, ଧନଶାଳୀ ଓ ବୁଦ୍ଧିଶାଳୀ ଲୋକଙ୍କର ସ୍ୱାର୍ଥର କ୍ଷୟ କ୍ଷତି ହୋଇଥିଲେ ବି ସେମାନେ ଅସହାୟ ହୋଇପଡ଼ିଛନ୍ତି । ଏହାହିଁ ଏହି ସ୍ଥୂଳ ପ୍ରକ୍ରିୟା ଅନ୍ତରାଳର ଅସଲ କଥା । ଏହି ଶକ୍ତି ଦିବ୍ୟ ଶକ୍ତି, ଭଗବାନଙ୍କର ଶକ୍ତି, ଶୁଦ୍ଧ ପର ପ୍ରକୃତିର ସାମର୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ସାଧାରଣ ଭାଷାରେ ପ୍ରଗତିବାଦୀ, ସମାଜ ଅଭିମୁଖୀ ସମୟର ଆହ୍ୱାନ । ଦୁଃଖୀ, ଦରିଦ୍ର, ଅଭାବଗ୍ରସ୍ତ, ନିପୀଡ଼ିତ ନର ନାରାୟଣଙ୍କର କ୍ରନ୍ଦନର ଉତ୍ତର ।

ଏହି ସମୟର ଆହ୍ୱାନ ବା ପ୍ରଗତିବାଦୀ ଶକ୍ତି ବା ଦିବ୍ୟଶକ୍ତିଙ୍କର ଯନ୍ତ୍ର ହୋଇ ଉଠିଛନ୍ତି ଆମ ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଇନ୍ଦିରାଗାନ୍ଧୀ ଓ ତଦୀୟାଅନୁଗାମୀ ଗଣ । ପ୍ରଗତି ଜଗନ୍ନାଥଙ୍କ ରଥ ଗଡ଼ି ଚାଲିଛି ଓ ଚାଲିବ । କେହି ସେହି ଅଗ୍ରଗତି ରୋକି ପାରିବେନି । ଯେ ରଥ ଦଉଡ଼ିରେ ହାତଥୋଇବ ସେ ଏହି ରଥ ଟଣାରେ ସାହାଯ୍ୟ କରିବ । ବିରୋଧକଲେ ବିପରୀତ ମୁଖରେ ଛିଟିକି ପଡ଼ିବ, ନଚେତ୍ ତାର ସମସ୍ତ ଚେଷ୍ଟା ଅପଚେଷ୍ଟାରେ ପରିଣତ ହେବ । ଏତିକି ଦିଶୁଛି ।

ଗତ ଗୋଟିଏ ବର୍ଷରେ ଦିଶୁଚି ଯେତିକି, ରୂପ ନେଇ ପାରୁଛି ତାହାର ଶହେ ଭାଗରୁ ଭାଗେ । ସବୁ ଯେପରି ଅଟକି ଯାଉଛି । ହାତେ ଆଗେଇଗଲେ ଅଧହାତେ ପଛେଇ ଆସୁଛି ରଥଟକ । କାହିଁକି ? ଏହି କାହିଁକିର ଏକ ଦୁଇ କରି ଆଜି ହିସାବ ନେବା ।

୧ । ସମାଜର, ଅର୍ଥାତ୍ କଟକ ସହରର କେତେକ ପୁରୁଣା ଲୋକଙ୍କର ଅପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନୀୟ ମନୋଭାବ । ସେମାନେ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ ଚାହାନ୍ତିନି, ତେଣୁ ଜାଣେଜାଣେ ବି ବିରୋଧ କରନ୍ତି ।

୨ । କେତେକ ସୁବିଧା ଓ ସ୍ୱାର୍ଥବାଦୀଙ୍କର ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିଗତ ବିରୋଧ ।

୩ । ଅନେକ କାନୁନ ନୀତି, ନିୟମ, ଯୋଜନା, ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି, ପୁରୁଣା ହୋଇଯାଇଛି । ତାର ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ ଦରକାର । ଯେଉଁମାନେ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ ବିରୋଧୀ ସେମାନେ ଏହାର ବାହୁ ଛାୟାତଳେ ଆଶ୍ରୟ ନେଉଛନ୍ତି ।

୪ । ଅମଲାତନ୍ତ୍ର, ସରକାରୀ ଦପ୍ତର, ପୋଲିସ, ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ସରକାରୀ ଅଫିସ ଉପରେ ଏହି ପ୍ରକୃତ କାମର ଚାପ ଅଧିକ ପଡୁଥିବାରୁ, ଗତାନୁଗତିକ ପ୍ରବାହ (ଚାଲିଛି, ଚାଲିଥାଉ, ଆମ ଦରମା ତଣ୍ଟାକ ଠିକ୍ ମିଳୁଛି, କଣ ଅଧିକା ମିଳିବ) ରୀତିରେ କେହି ଏହି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟରେ ହୃଦୟର ସହ ସହଯୋଗ କରୁନାହାନ୍ତି । କର୍ମ ତତ୍ପର ହେବା ତ ପରକଥା ।

୫ । କିଏ ନାମ କରିଯିବ ? କିଏ ବେଶୀ ଲୋକପ୍ରିୟ ହୋଇ ଯାଉଛି ? ଏପରି ଅସହିଷ୍ଣୁ ମନୋଭାବ ।

୬ । ଅର୍ଥାଭାବ । ସାମର୍ଥ୍ୟ ଅଭାବ । ଉପଯୁକ୍ତ କର୍ମୀ ଅଭାବ । ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ସାଧାରଣ କଥାସବୁ ।

୭ । ସର୍ବୋପରି ଉପଯୁକ୍ତ ମନୋଭାବର ଅଭାବ ।

ଏହି ଉପର ସମସ୍ୟାଗୁଡ଼ିକର ସମାଧାନ ଦରକାର । ସମାଧାନ କେଉଁଠି । ସମାଧାନ ଆମ ନିଜ ପାଖରେ । ଆମେ କିଏ ? ଆମେ ହେଉଛେ ୧-ସରକାରୀ ଉଚ୍ଚ କର୍ତ୍ତୃପକ୍ଷ ଓ ତାଙ୍କ ଦପ୍ତର । ୨-ସବୁ କର୍ମଚାରୀ ବନାମ ସେବକ । ୩-ଜନସାଧାରଣ । ୪-ତାଲିମପ୍ରାପ୍ତ ବୈଷୟିକ ଜ୍ଞାନସମ୍ପନ୍ନ ଯୁବ ମନୋଭାବ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ବିଶେଷ ।

ଏହି ଚାରି ଧାରକୁ ଏକମୁଖୀ କରିବାକୁ ହେବ । ଆମ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଏହାର କର୍ଣ୍ଣଧାର ଓ ତାଙ୍କ ସଦିଚ୍ଛା ଏହି ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ ପଛରେ ରହିଛି । ସମୟ ଶକ୍ତି ତାଙ୍କୁ ସେଥିଲାଗି ନିର୍ବାଚିତ କରିଛନ୍ତି । ସମୟର ଆହ୍ୱାନର ଉତ୍ତର ରୂପେ ପୌର ଉନ୍ନୟନ ସଂସ୍ଥା ୧୪ ବର୍ଷ ତଳେ ଗଠିତ ହୋଇ ଅଚଳ୍ ହୋଇ ସାରିଛି । ଚାରି ଜିଲ୍ଲାର କର୍ଣ୍ଣଧାର ଏହାର ସଭାପତି ହୋଇ ସାରିଛନ୍ତି । କେତେଜଣ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ବିଶେଷଙ୍କୁ ମନୋନୟନ ପଦ୍ଧତିରେ ଏହାର ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାସେବକ କରାଯାଇ ସାରିଛି । କେତେ ବଡ଼ ବଡ଼ ସରକାରୀ ଉଚ୍ଚ କର୍ମଚାରୀ, ଦପ୍ତର ଓ ବିଶେଷଜ୍ଞଙ୍କୁ ଏହାର ସହଯୋଗୀ ରୂପେ ପ୍ରତିଥର ନିମନ୍ତ୍ରଣ କରାଯାଇ ଏକାଠି କରାଯାଇ ପାରୁଛି । ତେବେ ବାକୀ ରହିଲା କଣ ?

ବାକୀ ରହିଲା କେବଳ ଗୋଟିଏ କଥା । ତାହା ହେଉଛି ମନୋଭାବ । ଆମର ଭିତର କଥା । ଦୋଷ ବାହାରେ ନାହିଁ । ଆମ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ଭିତରେ ରହିଛି । ଚାଲ, ତାକୁ ଖୋଜି ଦୂର କରିବା । ଏକାଠିବସି, ଏକ ମନରେ, ସହଯୋଗ ଓ ସାହାଯ୍ୟ ମନୋଭୂମିରୁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରିଯିବା । କଟକରେ ଆଉ ମୋଗଲ, ମରହଟ୍ଟା, ବ୍ରିଟିଶ ରାଜୁତି ନହୋଇ, ବା ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ନେତା ଓ ଅମଲା ରାଜୁତି ନହୋଇ ଶାନ୍ତି ସନ୍ତୋଷର ଜନଚେତନା ଅନୁସାରେ ଗଣରାଜୁତି ଚାଲିବ । ସୁନ୍ଦର ଓ ନିର୍ମଳ ହେବା ସଙ୍ଗେ ସଙ୍ଗେ ଗରିବ ଲୋକଙ୍କ ସମସ୍ୟା ମୁଖ୍ୟ ରୂପନେବ । ଚାଲ ସମସ୍ତେ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା କରିବା, ସେହି ଭଗବାନ୍ ଶକ୍ତିହିଁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରିଚାଲୁ । ଜଗନ୍ନାଥଙ୍କ ରଥଚକ ଆଗକୁ ଗଡ଼ିଯାଉ । ଆମେ ପଛଡ଼ିରେ ହାତ ମାରିଥାଉ ।

ଗୋଟିଏ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା—କୋଟିଏ ଲୋକଙ୍କର । କଟକରେ ପ୍ରଗତିର ରଥଚକ ଅଟକି ନଯାଉ, ଗଡ଼ିଚାଲୁ ।



ବୃହତ୍ତର କଟକର ନୂଆ ଯୁଗ

ଶ୍ରୀ ନଳିନୀକାନ୍ତ ପଣ୍ଡା
(ଚେୟାରମ୍ୟାନ୍, ବୃହତ୍ତର କଟକ ଉନ୍ନୟନ ସଂସ୍ଥା)

ଆସନ୍ତା ମାସ ଦ୍ଵିତୀୟ ସପ୍ତାହରେ ଆମର ଜନପ୍ରିୟ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ କଟକ ସହରରେ ଏକ ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ଉଦ୍‌ଘାଟନ କରିବା ସଙ୍ଗେ ସଙ୍ଗେ ପ୍ରସ୍ତାବିତ ବକ୍ସିବଜାର ସୁପର ମାର୍କେଟ ଓ ଆଉ ତିନୋଟି ଆଞ୍ଚଳିକ ମାର୍କେଟ ଗୃହର ଶିଳାନ୍ୟାସ କରିବା ପ୍ରସ୍ତାବ ରହିଛି । ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଏହି ବୃହତ୍ତମ ନଗରୀର ବିକାଶ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଏହା ଏକ ନୂତନ ଯୁଗ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିବ ।

ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟୀୟ ଦଶମ ଶତାବ୍ଦୀରେ କେଶରୀ ବଂଶର ରାଜତ୍ଵ ସମୟରେ କଟକ ସ୍ଵାଧୀନ ଉତ୍କଳର ରାଜଧାନୀ ହେଲା । ଚିତ୍ରୋତ୍ପଳା ମହାନଦୀ ଓ କାଠଯୋଡ଼ି ନଦୀର ପରିଧି ଭିତରେ କ୍ରମେ ଏକ ଉନ୍ନତ ସହର ଗଢ଼ିଉଠିଲା । ବନ୍ୟା ପ୍ରାଦୁର୍ଭାବରୁ ଏହାକୁ ରକ୍ଷା କରିବାପାଇଁ କାଠଯୋଡ଼ି ପଥର ବନ୍ଧ ନିର୍ମିତ ହେଲା ଓ ପରବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ସମୟରେ ଗଙ୍ଗବଂଶର ରାଜତ୍ଵ ବେଳେ ପୂର୍ବ ଉପକୂଳର ଶ୍ରେଷ୍ଠ ଦୁର୍ଗ ବାରବାଟୀ ଓ ଏହାର ନବତଳ ପ୍ରାସାଦ ଗଢ଼ିଉଠିଲା । ଓଡ଼ିଆ ପାଇକପୁଅର ଯୁଦ୍ଧଯାତ୍ରା, ସାଧବପୁଅର ବାଣିଜ୍ୟ, ସୁମାତ୍ରା ଓ ସିଂହଳ ଯାତ୍ରା ପ୍ରଭୃତି ବହୁ ଗୌରବମୟ ଅଧ୍ୟାୟର ମୂକସାକ୍ଷୀ ଏହି ଐତିହାସିକ ନଗରୀ । କବି ମାନସିଂହଙ୍କର ଭାଷାରେ—

"ସେ ଦିନ ଏ ଶିଳାପରେ ନଗର ଜନନୀ,
ଏକତ୍ରେ ପଠାଇ ପୋତେ ସନ୍ତାନେ ସମରେ ।
ଚାହିଁଥିବେ ଦୂର ଦିଗେ ସେ ବୀର ରମଣୀ,
ଲୁଣ୍ଠିତ ଅଶ୍ରିତ ଲୁହ ଅପମାନ ଡରେ ।"

ଗତ ଏକହଜାର ବର୍ଷର ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଇତିହାସ ହେଉଛି କଟକର ଇତିହାସ । ଏହି ସହରର ପ୍ରତି ଧୂଳିକଣା ଏ ଜାତି ପାଇଁ ଗୌରବମୟ ।

ଉତ୍କଳର ସ୍ଵାଧୀନତା-ରବି ଅସ୍ତମିତ ହେବା ପରେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଏହି ନଗରୀର ପ୍ରାଧାନ୍ୟ ନ କମି କ୍ରମଶଃ ବଢ଼ିଚାଲେ ଲାଗିଲା । ମୋଗଲ, ମରହଟ୍ଟା, ବ୍ରିଟିଶ ଶାସନାଧୀନ ଥିଲାବେଳେ ଓ ସ୍ଵାଧୀନତା ପ୍ରାପ୍ତି ପରେ ଶିକ୍ଷା, ସଂସ୍କୃତି, ବ୍ୟବସାୟ, ରାଜନୀତି ଓ ଆଇନ ବ୍ୟବସାୟ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିରୁ ଏହା ସମଗ୍ର ରାଜ୍ୟର କେନ୍ଦ୍ରସ୍ଥଳୀ ରୂପେ ପରିଣତ ହେଲା ଓ ଏଠାରେ ବହୁ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ଗଢ଼ି ଉଠିଲା । ଭୁବନେଶ୍ଵରକୁ ରାଜଧାନୀ ସ୍ଥାନାନ୍ତରିତ ହେବା ପରେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଏହି ସହରର ପ୍ରାଧାନ୍ୟ ନକମି କ୍ରମେ କ୍ରମେ ବଢ଼ିବାରେ ଲାଗିଲା । ଭକ୍ତକବି ମଧୁସୂଦନଙ୍କର ବର୍ଣ୍ଣବୋଧରେ ପିଲାମାନେ ବର୍ଣ୍ଣଶିକ୍ଷା ସମୟରେ ପଢ଼ିଲେ—

"କଟକ ନଗର, ଧବଳ ଟଗର ।"

କିନ୍ତୁ ଟଗରଫୁଲର ଧବଳତ୍ଵ ସହ କଟକ ସହରକୁ କାହିଁକି ଯେ ଭକ୍ତକବି ତୁଳନା କରିଥିଲେ ତାହା ସାଧାରଣ ଲୋକେ ବୁଝିବାରେ ଅବକାଶ ନ ଥିଲା । ପୃଥିବୀର ଯେ କୌଣସି ପ୍ରାଚୀନ ସହର ପରି ଜନସଂଖ୍ୟା ବୃଦ୍ଧି ସଙ୍ଗେ ତାଳଦେଇ କ୍ରମେ କ୍ରମେ ଏହି ସହରର ଅସାମଞ୍ଜସ୍ୟ ବିକାଶ ହେବାରେ ଲାଗିଲା । ରାସ୍ତାଗୁଡ଼ିକ ସଂକୁଚିତ ହେଲା । ନାଳନର୍ଦ୍ଦମା ଅଭାବରୁ ପାଣି ଜମି ରହିଲା, ପେଟ ପୋଷିବା

ପାଇଁ ଲୋକମାନେ ରାସ୍ତା ଉପରେ କ୍ୟାବିନ ଖୋଲି ବ୍ୟବସାୟ ଆରମ୍ଭ କଲେ । ମଫସଲ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରୁ ବହୁଲୋକ ଅର୍ଥ ଉପାର୍ଜନ ଧନ୍ଦା ପାଇଁ ଏଠାରେ ବସବାସ କଲେ ଓ ସରକାରୀ ଜାଗା ଉପରେ ଜବରଦଖଲ କରି ଛୋଟ ଛୋଟ କୁଡ଼ିଆ ତିଆରି କଲେ । ଫଳରେ ଅସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟକର ପରିବେଶ ଭିତରେ ବସ୍ତିମାନ ଗଢ଼ିଉଠିଲା । ସାଧାରଣ ମଳମୂତ୍ରାଗାର ଅଭାବରୁ ରାସ୍ତାପାଖ ସାଧାରଣ ପାଇଖାନାରେ ପରିଣତ ହେଲା । ପାନୀୟ ଜଳର ଅଭାବ ସହରରେ ପରିଲକ୍ଷିତ ହେଲା । ମଶାମାଛିର ପ୍ରାଦୁର୍ଭାବ ସହରବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ବିବ୍ରତ କଲା । କଟକ ସମଗ୍ର ଦେଶର ଏକ ଅପରିଚ୍ଛନ୍ନ ସହର ରୂପେ ପରିଣତ ହେଲା ।

ଏହି ସମସ୍ୟାର ସମାଧାନ ପାଇଁ ୧୯୭୨ ମସିହାରେ ବୃହତ୍ତର କଟକ ଉନ୍ନୟନ ସଂସ୍ଥା ଗଠନ କରାଗଲା ଏବଂ ୧୯୭୮ ମସିହାରେ ସହର ପାଇଁ ଏକ ମାଷ୍ଟରପ୍ଲାନ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରାଗଲା । କିନ୍ତୁ ସହରର ବିକାଶ ପାଇଁ ବିଶେଷ କିଛି ନ ହେବା ଫଳରେ ଲୋକମାନେ କ୍ରମେ ଏହି ସଂସ୍ଥାର ଦକ୍ଷତା ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ସନ୍ଦେହ ପ୍ରକାଶ କଲେ ।

ଓଡ଼ିଶାରେ ଗତ ୨୫ ବର୍ଷ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ସହରାଞ୍ଚଳ ଉନ୍ନୟନ ପାଇଁ ଯାହା ହୋଇପାରି ନଥିଲା ଗତ ୨ବର୍ଷ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ତାହା ହେବା ସମ୍ଭବପର ହୋଇଛି । କେବଳ କଟକ ସହର ନୁହେଁ, ରାଜ୍ୟର ଅନ୍ୟ ମୁଖ୍ୟ ସହରଗୁଡ଼ିକର ଉନ୍ନୟନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ହାତକୁ ନିଆଯାଇ ସାରିଛି । ଦୃଢ଼ ରାଜନୈତିକ ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି, ପ୍ରଶାସନିକ ଦକ୍ଷତା ଓ ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କର ଅକୁଣ୍ଠ ସହଯୋଗ ସମନ୍ୱିତ ହେବା ଫଳରେ ଏହା ସମ୍ଭବପର ହୋଇପାରିଛି ।

କଟକ ସହର ଉନ୍ନୟନ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ଦୀର୍ଘ ବିବରଣୀ ଦେବା ମୋର ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ନୁହେଁ । ଏଥିପାଇଁ ହେଉଥିବା ବିଭିନ୍ନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମର ସାଫଲ୍ୟର ବିଚାର ଜନସାଧାରଣ ନିଜେ କରିବା ଉଚିତ । ତେଣୁ ଏ ବିଷୟରେ କେବଳ ସମ୍ୟକ ସୂଚନା ଦେବାହିଁ ମୋର କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ ବୋଲି ମୁଁ ମନେକରୁଛି ।

ଉଲ୍‌ମ୍ୟାନ କହିଥିଲେ ଯେ, ଆମର ପ୍ରାଚୀନ ନଗରଗୁଡ଼ିକ ଧ୍ୱଂସ କରିବା ସମ୍ଭବପର ନୁହେଁ । ଏଗୁଡ଼ିକୁ ରକ୍ଷାକରି ଏହାର ଯୋଜନାବଦ୍ଧ ଉନ୍ନତି କରିବା ନଗର ଯୋଜନାକାରୀମାନଙ୍କର କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ । କଟକ ସହରର ଉନ୍ନତି ପାଇଁ ଏହା ମଧ୍ୟ ପ୍ରଯୁଜ୍ୟ । କିନ୍ତୁ ୧୯୭୮ ମସିହାର ମାଷ୍ଟରପ୍ଲାନ ଏକ ଅପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନୀୟ ନଥି ନୁହେଁ । ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ସମସ୍ୟା ଓ ଜନସଂଖ୍ୟା ବୃଦ୍ଧିକୁ ଆଖି ଆଗରେ ରଖି ଏଥିରେ ବିହିତ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ କରିବା ଆବଶ୍ୟକ । ଏହି କାମ ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ହାତକୁ ନିଆଯାଇଛି ଏବଂ ଏଥିପାଇଁ ଖଡ଼ଗପୁର ଇଞ୍ଜିନିୟରିଂ କଲେଜର ଉଚ୍ଚଶିକ୍ଷିତ ଶିକ୍ଷାନବିସମାନଙ୍କର ସାହାଯ୍ୟ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରାଯାଉଛି ।

କଟକ ସହରର ପାନୀୟଜଳ ଯୋଗାଣ ସମସ୍ୟାର ସମାଧାନ ପାଇଁ ବୃହତ୍ତର କଟକ ଉନ୍ନୟନ ସଂସ୍ଥା ଅଗ୍ରାଧିକାର ଭିତ୍ତିରେ ଏହିକାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ହାତକୁ ନେବା ପାଇଁ ଏକ ଐତିହାସିକ ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି ଗ୍ରହଣ କରିଛନ୍ତି । ଏଥିପାଇଁ ଏହି ସଂସ୍ଥା ପକ୍ଷରୁ ଏକ ଜନସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଡିଭିଜନ ଖୋଲିବା ସ୍ଥିର କରାଯାଇଛି ।

କଟକର ବୃହତ୍ତମ ସମସ୍ୟା ହେଉଛି ନାଳନର୍ଦ୍ଦମା ସମସ୍ୟା । ଏହି ସମସ୍ୟାର ଆଶୁ ସମାଧାନ ପାଇଁ କୌଣସି ଆନ୍ତର୍ଜାତିକ ଖ୍ୟାତିସମ୍ପନ୍ନ ଭାରତୀୟ ସଂସ୍ଥା ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ କଟକ ସମନ୍ୱିତ ମାଷ୍ଟରପ୍ଲାନ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରାଯିବ । ଏହି ପ୍ରାରମ୍ଭିକ ସର୍ଭେ ପାଇଁ ଆର୍ଥିକ ସାହାଯ୍ୟ ଦେବାକୁ ଉନ୍ନୟନ ସଂସ୍ଥା ନୀତିଗତ ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି ଗ୍ରହଣ କରିଛନ୍ତି ।

ସହରରେ ଯାନବାହନ ଚଳାଚଳକୁ ସୁନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରିତ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଏକ ବହିର୍ବଳୟ ମାର୍ଗ ଏବଂ ଏକ ଅନ୍ତର୍ବଳୟ ମାର୍ଗ ନିର୍ମାଣ କରାଯିବ । ଏହି ଉଭୟ ରାସ୍ତା ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ମଧ୍ୟ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରିବା ସମ୍ଭବପର । କିନ୍ତୁ ଏହାର ଉନ୍ନତି ପାଇଁ ଆବଶ୍ୟକୀୟ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ନିଆଯାଇଛି । ବହିର୍ବଳୟ ମାର୍ଗପାଇଁ ପ୍ରାଥମିକ ସର୍ଭେ ଶେଷ ହୋଇଛି ଓ ଏହା ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାରଙ୍କର ସକ୍ରିୟ ବିବେଚନାଧୀନ ଅଛି । ରାସ୍ତାକୁ ପ୍ରଶସ୍ତ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ବେଦଖଲ ଉଚ୍ଛେଦ କରାଯାଇଥିବା ବିଷୟରେ ଆଜି ସମସ୍ତେ ସଚେତନ ଅଛନ୍ତି । କଲେଜଛକ, ମାଝି କଟକ ଚଣ୍ଡି ମନ୍ଦିର ବା ଦୋଳମୁଣ୍ଡାଇ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ରାସ୍ତାର ଉନ୍ନତି ହେବା ପରେ ଚଳାଚଳର ହୋଇଥିବା ସୁବିଧା ଆଜି ସାଧାରଣ ଲୋକେ ଅନୁଭବ କରୁଛନ୍ତି । ସହରରେ ଦୁଇଟି ଟ୍ରାଫିକ

ଆଇଲ୍ୟାଣ୍ଡ ନିର୍ମିତ ହୋଇ ସାରିଛି ଏବଂ ୧୬ଟି ଟ୍ରାଫିକ ଆଇଲ୍ୟାଣ୍ଡ ନିକଟରେ ନିର୍ମାଣ କରିବା ସ୍ଥିର କରାଯାଇଛି । ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ୧୯ଟି ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଛକ ସ୍ଥାନରେ ଯାନବାହନ ଚଳାଚଳ ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣ ପାଇଁ ଆଲୋକ ସଙ୍କେତ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କରାଯାଇ ସାରିଲାଣି । ଜାତୀୟ ରାଜପଥ ଓ ଅନ୍ୟ ରାସ୍ତା ଉପରେ ରହୁଥିବା ଟ୍ରକଗୁଡ଼ିକୁ ରହିବା ପାଇଁ ଏକ ଟ୍ରକ ଟର୍ମିନାଲ ମହାନଦୀ ପୋଲ ନିକଟରେ ଶୀଘ୍ର ତିଆରି କରାଯିବ । ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କର ଯାତାୟାତ ସୁବିଧା ପାଇଁ ଦ୍ରୁତଗାମୀ ଯାନ ସହର ଭିତରେ ଚଳିବାର ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ସମସ୍ତେ ଉପଲବ୍ଧି କରୁଛନ୍ତି । ଆସନ୍ତା ଏପ୍ରିଲ ମାସରୁ ସହରରେ ଏକଶହ ଅଟୋରିକ୍ସା ଚଳାଯିବ ଓ ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ଚାଲୁଥିବା ଟାଉନବସ୍ ଓ ମିନିବସ୍ ବ୍ୟତୀତ ଅଧିକ ସଂଖ୍ୟକ ମିନିବସ୍ ସହରର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଅଞ୍ଚଳକୁ ଚଳାଇବା ସ୍ଥିର କରାଯାଇଛି ।

ସହରର ବ୍ୟବସାୟ କେନ୍ଦ୍ରର ଉନ୍ନତି ଓ ରାସ୍ତା ନିକଟରୁ ସୁସଙ୍ଗଠିତ ସ୍ଥାନକୁ ଏହା ସ୍ଥାନାନ୍ତର କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଉନ୍ନୟନ ସଂସ୍ଥା ଓ ମ୍ୟୁନିସିପାଲିଟି ପକ୍ଷରୁ ୧୪ଟି ଆଞ୍ଚଳିକ ମାର୍କେଟ ନିର୍ମାଣ କରାଯିବ । ଏହା ବ୍ୟତୀତ ବକ୍ସିବଜାର ଠାରେ ଏକ ଆନୁସଂଗିକ ମାର୍କେଟ ଉଦ୍‌ଘାଟିତ ହୋଇ ସାରିଛି ଏବଂ ପୁରୁଣା ମାର୍କେଟ ସ୍ଥାନରେ ୭ମହଲା ବିଶିଷ୍ଟ ଏକ ସୁପର ମାର୍କେଟ ନିର୍ମାଣ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରାଥମିକ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ନିଆଯାଇ ସାରିଲାଣି । ସହରର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ସ୍ଥାନରେ ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ୪୦୦ଟି କିଓସ୍କ ନିର୍ମାଣ କରାଯାଉଛି ଓ ଏହି ସଂଖ୍ୟା ୧ ହଜାର କରିବା ସ୍ଥିର କରାଯାଇଛି । ସହରର ଯୋଜନାବଦ୍ଧ ଉନ୍ନତି ଫଳରେ ଯେଉଁମାନେ ନିଜର ବ୍ୟବସାୟ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ହରାଇବେ ସମାଜର ଦୁର୍ବଳ ଶ୍ରେଣୀ ଲୋକ ଓ ଶିକ୍ଷିତ ବେକାର ଯୁବକମାନଙ୍କୁ ଏଗୁଡ଼ିକ ଭଡ଼ାରେ ଯୋଗାଇ ଦିଆଯିବ । ବାସଗୃହ ସମସ୍ୟାର ସମାଧାନ ପାଇଁ ମହାନଦୀ ବିହାର ଓ ତୁଳସୀପୁର ଗୃହ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯୋଜନା ହାତକୁ ନିଆଯାଇଛି । ଲିଙ୍କରୋଡ଼ରେ ବ୍ୟବସାୟ ଓ ବାସଗୃହର ଏକ ସମନ୍ୱିତ ଯୋଜନା ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ଘର ତିଆରି କରାଯିବ । ଜମି ମାଲିକମାନଙ୍କୁ ଏଥିପାଇଁ ବିନାମୂଲ୍ୟରେ ନକ୍ସା ଯୋଗାଇ ଦିଆଯାଉଛି । ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ଜେଲକୁ କଟକ ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର ରାସ୍ତା ମଧ୍ୟସ୍ଥ ଅଞ୍ଚଳକୁ ଉଠାଇ ନେବାପାଇଁ ନୀତିଗତ ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି ନିଆଯାଇଛି । ଏହି ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ଥିବା ୨୮ ଏକର ସ୍ଥାନରେ ଉନ୍ନତ ବାସଗୃହ ଓ ଦୋକାନ ଗୃହ ନିର୍ମାଣ କରାଗଲା ପରେ ଏହା ନଗରୀ ଭିତରେ ଏକ ନୂତନ ନଗର ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିବ ।

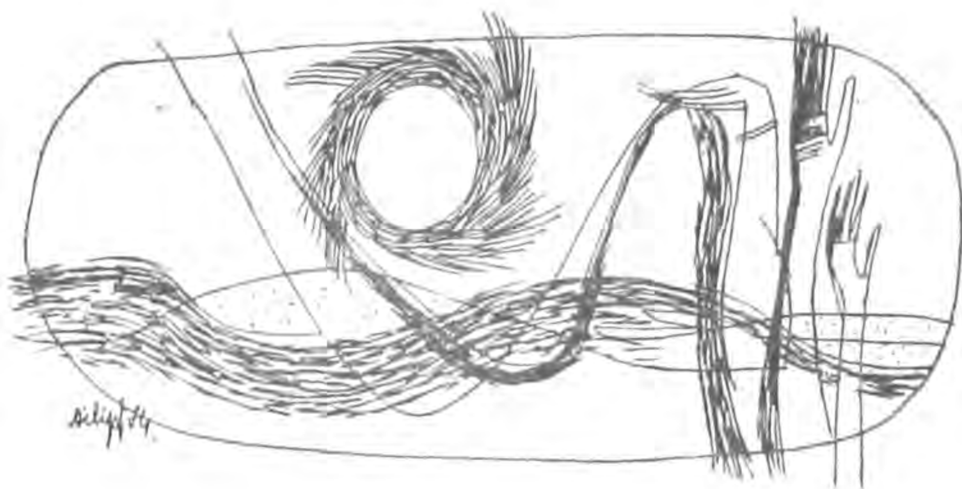
ପୁରୁଣା ସେକ୍ରେଟାରିଏଟ୍ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ଏକ ବହୁତଳ ବିଶିଷ୍ଟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ ଓ ବ୍ୟବସାୟ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା କରିବା ପାଇଁ ବିହିତ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ହୋଇସାରିଲାଣି । ଏହି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଆସନ୍ତା ଜୁନ ମାସରେ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହେବା ସ୍ଥିର କରାଯାଉଛି ।

ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ ବିକାଶ, ଐତିହାସିକ ସ୍ମୃତିରକ୍ଷା ଓ ଅବସର ବିନୋଦନ ପାଇଁ ବାରବାଟୀ ଦୁର୍ଗ ଉନ୍ନୟନ ଯୋଜନା, ପ୍ରମୋଦ ଉଦ୍ୟାନ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଓ ଶହୀଦ ଭବନଠାରେ ଏକ ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା କରିବା ପାଇଁ ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି ନିଆଯାଇ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇସାରିଲାଣି । ପୁସ୍ତକାଗାର ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା, ସ୍ୱାଧୀନତା ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଭୂମିକା ସମ୍ପର୍କୀୟ ତଥ୍ୟ ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନ, ପ୍ରାଚୀନ ଉତ୍କଳର ଗୌରବମୟ ଇତିହାସ, ଗୃହନିର୍ମାଣ, ସନ୍ତରଣ ପୁଷ୍କରିଣୀ, ଶିଶୁ ଚିଡ଼ିଆଖାନା, ଶିଶୁ ଉଦ୍ୟାନ ପ୍ରଭୃତି ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା ଓ କଟକ ସହରର ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମର ବିକାଶ ପାଇଁ ଏକ ନୂତନ ବାତାବରଣ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିବା ପାଇଁ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦିଷ୍ଟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରାଯାଇ ସାରିଲାଣି ।

କଟକ ସହରର ସର୍ବାଙ୍ଗୀନ ଉନ୍ନତି ପାଇଁ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ବିଭାଗୀୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକୁ ସମନ୍ୱିତ କରିବାକୁ ଏକ ସମନ୍ୱିତ ଉନ୍ନୟନ କମିଟି ଗଠନ କରାଯାଇଛି । ସହରର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ସମସ୍ୟା ଓ ତାର ସମାଧାନ ସମ୍ପର୍କୀୟ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି ଏଠାରେ ନିଆଯାଉଛି ।

ଗତବର୍ଷ ଜୁଲାଇ ପହିଲାଦିନ ଦେଶର ଅର୍ଥନୈତିକ ପ୍ରଗତି ସକାଶେ ଅଭିନବ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ କେତେକ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଘୋଷଣା କରି ସମ୍ମାନସ୍ପଦ ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ କହିଥିଲେ ଯେ, ସହରାଞ୍ଚଳ ଜମି କେତେକ ଲୋକଙ୍କ ହାତରେ ରହିବା ଫଳରେ ଅସଂଯତ ସହରାଞ୍ଚଳ ବିକାଶ ଲାଭ କରିଛି । ସେଥିପାଇଁ ସହରାଞ୍ଚଳ ଓ ସହରତଳି ଜମିର ସାମାଜିକୀକରଣ ସମ୍ପର୍କୀୟ ଆଇନ ପ୍ରଣୟନ କରିବା

ଉପରେ ସେ ବିଶେଷ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱ ଆରୋପ କରିଥିଲେ । ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ଏଥିପାଇଁ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦିଷ୍ଟ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପାର୍ଲାମେଣ୍ଟ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ଗ୍ରହଣ ହୋଇ ସାରିଲାଣି । କଟକ ସହର ଏହି ଅଞ୍ଚଳର ପରିସରଭୁକ୍ତ ହୋଇଥିବା ଆନନ୍ଦର ବିଷୟ । ଏହି ଅଞ୍ଚଳ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ ହେବା ପରେ ସହରର ବିକାଶକୁ ଅଧିକ ତ୍ୱରାନ୍ୱିତ କରିବା ସମ୍ଭବପର ହୋଇପାରିବ । ଏହି ସହରକୁ ଏକ ସୁନ୍ଦର ଓ ଉନ୍ନତ ସହର କରି ଗଢ଼ିବାପାଇଁ ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ନିଆଯାଉଥିବା ବୈପ୍ଳବିକ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ସାଫଲ୍ୟ ମଣ୍ଡିତ ହୋଇପାରିବ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଜନ ସହଯୋଗ ଫଳରେ । ସମୂହ ସ୍ୱାର୍ଥ ପାଇଁ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିଗତ ସ୍ୱାର୍ଥର ଜଳାଞ୍ଜଳିଦେବା ଭାରତୀୟ ଐତିହ୍ୟ ଓ ସଂସ୍କୃତିର ମୂଳମନ୍ତ୍ର । ମୋର ବିଶ୍ୱାସ କଟକବାସୀ ଏ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ସେମାନଙ୍କର ଗୁରୁତର ଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ଓ କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ସଚେତନ ଅଛନ୍ତି । ଏହି ସହରରେ ଆମେ ଜନ୍ମଗ୍ରହଣ କରିଛେ, ଶେଷରେ ଏହାର ମାଟିରେ ଆମର ମାଟିର ଶରୀର ମିଶିଯିବ । ଆମର ଏହି ପ୍ରିୟ ସହର ଥିଲା, ଅଛି ଓ ରହିବ । ଆସନ୍ତୁ ଯେଉଁମାଟିରେ ଦିନେ ଆମେ ମିଶିଯିବା, ଯାହାର ପାଣି ପବନେ ଆମକୁ ପୁଷ୍ଟ କରିଛି ତାହାର ଉନ୍ନତି ପାଇଁ ଆମେ ଆଜି ସମ୍ମିଳିତ ଉଦ୍ୟମ କରିବା ।



କାଜି ବଜାର—ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଗଳି ।

ଡକ୍ଟର କାଳୀଚରଣ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ

ବହୁତ ଦିନର କଥା—ଏବେ ସେତେବେଳେ ସ୍ମୃତି ପାଶୋରି ଯାଇନାହିଁ । ଠିକେ ଠିକେ କହୁଛି । ମୋ' ଘର ଗାଁରେ । ସେତେବେଳେ ଲୋକଙ୍କଠାରୁ ଶୁଣୁଥାଏଁ କଟକ ସହରକଥା—କେତେବଡ଼ ବଜାର—କେତେଲୋକ—ବଡ଼ କଚେରୀ, ଜେଲଖାନା—ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ଇତ୍ୟାଦି—ବଡ଼ ଫେକଧାର କରି ବର୍ଣ୍ଣନା କରନ୍ତି । ଆମ ଗାଁ ଗଣ୍ଡା ଲୋକେ କଟକ ସହରକୁ ।

ମନଟା ଭାରି ସକ ସକ ହେଉଥାଏ କଟକ ଦେଖିବାକୁ । ମୁଁ ସେତେବେଳେ ଚଣ୍ଡିକା ମାଇନର ସ୍କୁଲର ଛାତ୍ର । ୧୯୧୨-୧୩ ସାଲର କଥା । ଭଲ ପଢ଼ାପଢ଼ି କରୁଥିଲି ବୋଲି ମାଇନର ବୃତ୍ତି ପରୀକ୍ଷା ଦେବାକୁ କଟକ ଆସିଥିଲି ମୁଁ । ଜେଜେବୋଉ ଚଣ୍ଡିକା ଠାକୁରାଣୀଙ୍କ ଦର୍ଶନ ସାରି, ଡାଟ ବଳଦ ଗାଡ଼ିରେ ବଡ଼ି ଭୋରୁ ଗଡ଼ ବାହାରିଲି । ରାତି ପାହାର ପାଁଚି ଅନ୍ଧାର ଥାଏ । ଗାଡ଼ି କଟକ ଆରପଟ ମୁଣ୍ଡମୁହାଣରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିଲା । ମଝିରେ କାଠଯୋଡ଼ି ନଈ, ସକାଳ ନହେଲେ ଗାଡ଼ି ନଈ ପାରିହେବାକୁ ଶଗଡ଼ିଆ ମଙ୍ଗୁଆ ନାହିଁ । କାରଣ ସକାଳେ, ସେ ବଡ଼ ଭୟ କାଠଯୋଡ଼ୀ ନଈରେ କଟକ ସହରକୁ ଲାଗିକରି ପାଣି ଅଧୁଏ ହାତ ଅଛି । ବାଲି ପାରହୋଇ ଗାଡ଼ି ଯିବାକୁ ହେବ । ଏଇ ବାଲି ମଝିରେ ମାହାଳ କୁଦ । ସେଠି କେତୋଟି ମହାଳ ଘର ଅଛି । ସେଇ କୁଦରେ ଗୁଣ୍ଡାମାନେ ଅନେକଙ୍କର ଜିନିଷପତ୍ର ଲୁଟି ନେଇ ଯାଆନ୍ତି । ବେଳେ ବେଳେ ମଣିଷ ବି ମାରିପକାନ୍ତି, ଦିନ ନହେଲେ ଗାଡ଼ି ଛାଡ଼ିବା ନାହିଁ । ତେଣୁ ମୁଣ୍ଡମୁହାଣରେ ସକାଳ ଯାଏଁ ଉଟାଇ ଖରା ପଡ଼ିବା ପରେ ଗାଡ଼ି କଟକ ସହରକୁ ମୁହାଁଇଲା । ଦରହରି ଘାଟବାଟେ ଆମେ ସହର ଭିତରକୁ ଆସିଲୁ ।

ରଙ୍ଗାମଠିଆ ଗୋଡ଼ାରୀ ଭିତରକୁ ଯିବାକୁ ସେଇ ଅଳ୍ପ ଓସାରିଆ ଗଳିବାଟ ଅଛି, ତାହାରି ଆଗ-ଭାଗରେ ବଡ଼ ଗୁଣ୍ଡିଏ ଥାଏ । ସେ ଘରଟି ଖୋରଧାର ମୁକ୍ତିଆର ଛୋଟା ନିରଞ୍ଜନ ବାବୁଙ୍କର । ସେଇଟା ତାଙ୍କ ମେସ୍ ହୋଇଥାଏ । ମୁଁ ସେଇଠି ରହିଲି । ଯଥା ସମୟରେ କଟକ ଟ୍ରେନିଂ ସ୍କୁଲରେ ପରୀକ୍ଷା ଦେଲି । ଏବେ ସେ ସ୍କୁଲଘର ଆଉ ନାହିଁ । ଜଣେ କିଏ ସେ ଯାଗା ନେଇ ବଡ଼ ବଡ଼ ଦୋକାନ କୋଠାଟିଏ ତୋଳିଛନ୍ତି । ଘର ଆଗର ଧୂଳି ସଡ଼କ ବି ନାହିଁ । ଏବେ ପିଚୁରାସ୍ତା ହେଲାଣି ।

ପରୀକ୍ଷାପରେ ଦିନଟିଏ କଟକ ସହରକୁ ବୁଲି ଦେଖିବାକୁ ମନ ହମ ହମ ହେଲା । ଦାନ୍ତଚଣା ଚିକଣା ତ ସେତେବେଳେ ସ୍ୱପ୍ନ । କେତେଖଣ୍ଡି ଭଡ଼ା ଘୋଡ଼ାଗାଡ଼ି ଚଳୁଥାଏ । ଖଣ୍ଡିଏ ଘୋଡ଼ାଗାଡ଼ି ଭଡ଼ାକରି ସହର ବୁଲି ବାହାରିଲି, ବାଙ୍କୀର ଜଣେ ସାଙ୍ଗକୁ ସାଥିରେ ଧରି । ପହିଲେ ଗଲୁଁ କାଳୀମଠର ଦର୍ଶନକୁ । ତାହାପରେ ବାଟରେ ଖାଜଣା ଛକ । ଯାକୁ କେହି କେହି ଖାଲବାର ହେଉଛି କହନ୍ତି । ଶୁଣିଲି ଖାଜ୍ ଖାଁ ବୋଲି ଜଣେ ମୁସଲମାନ ସର୍ଦ୍ଦାର ଏଠି ରହୁଥିଲେ—ତାଙ୍କରି ନାଆଁରେ ଏ ଛକର ନାଆଁ ଖାଜଣା ହେଉଛି । ଛକର ବାଁ ପଟେ କାଠଯୋଡ଼ୀକୁ ଯିବା ରାସ୍ତାକଡ଼ରେ ରେଭେନ୍ସା କଲେଜ ।

ଡାହାଣପଟେ ତୋ' ଡାଲରେ କମିଶନ କଚେରୀ ଓ ବାଁ ପଟେ ଟ୍ରେନିଂସ୍କୁଲ, ଏଇଠି ମୁଁ ମାଇନର ପରୀକ୍ଷା ଦେଇଥିଲି । ସବୁ ଧୂଳିରାସ୍ତା । ଗାଡ଼ି ଟିକିଏ ବେଗରେ ଗଲେ ଦେହ ମୁଣ୍ଡରେ ବାଲି ଧୂଳି ଉଡ଼ିପଡ଼ୁଥାଏ ।

କାଳୀମନ୍ଦିରର ଟିକିଏ ଆଗକୁ ମଧୁସୂଦନ ରାଓ ଏବଂ ତା ପଛକୁ ରାଧାନାଥ ରାୟଙ୍କ ଘର, ମୁଁ ଆଉ ଦେଖିକି ପାଇନାହିଁ । ଫେରି ଚାନ୍ଦନୀଚଉକ ଛକରୁ ଚଣ୍ଡୀମନ୍ଦିର ବାହାରିଲୁଁ, ବାଁ ପଟେ କମିଶନ ସାହେବଙ୍କ ହତାଘେରା କୋଠା ସଡ଼କରୁ ଦେଖା ଯାଉଥାଏ, ସେଇଠୁ ଚାନ୍ଦନୀଚୌକ ଛକର ବାଁ ପଟେ ଦର୍ପଣୀ କୋଠା । ଚଣ୍ଡୀମନ୍ଦିରରେ ଦର୍ଶନସାରି ବକ୍ସିବଜାରକୁ ଗଲୁଁ । ଶୁଣିଲି, ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ବୀର ଜଗବନ୍ଧୁ ବକ୍ସି କଟକରେ ଇଂରେଜ ସର୍କାରଙ୍କ ବନ୍ଦୀ ହୋଇ ରହିଥିଲେ । ତାଙ୍କରି ନାମରେ ଏଇଟା ବକ୍ସିବଜାର ବୋଲାଉଛି । ଏବେ ବାଟ ଭିତରେ ମାତ୍ର କେତେଟା ପାନ ଓ ବରଫିଆଡା ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ଦୋକାନ ଦେଖିଲି । ଏଇଠି ବକ୍ସି ବଜାରରେ ଗୋଟିଏ ଅଖି ଦୁରୁଷିଆ ବଡ଼ ଦୋକାନ ଅଛି । ଏଇଟା ବିଲମୋରିଆ ଦୋକାନ । ମନେଅଛି, ଆମେ ଦୋକାନକୁ ଯାଇ କିଛି ପେପରମେଣ୍ଟ ମିଠାଇ କିଣି ଫେରିଲୁଁ । କେତୋଟି ଲୁଗାପଟା ଦୋକାନ ଆଉ ଗୁଡ଼ିଆ ଦୋକାନ ପାରହେବା ପରେ କଦମ୍‌ରସୁଲ ବଡ଼ଫାଟକ ଆଉ କଟକ ଜେଲ୍‌ଖାନା । ତା' ଆଗକୁ କଟକ ପ୍ରିଣ୍ଟିଂ କମ୍ପାନୀ ଛାପାଖାନା । ପ୍ରିଣ୍ଟିଂକମ୍ପାନୀଠାରୁ ଅଳ୍ପ ଆଗରେ ବାଁ ପଟେ ମ୍ୟୁନିସିପାଲିଟି ଡାକ୍ତରଖାନା । ତା' ଆଗକୁ ଡାହାଣରେ ଗୋଟିଏ ଛୋଟ ଦେଉଳ ଓ ପୋଖରୀଟିଏ । ଏ ପୋଖରୀକି ଚନ୍ଦନ ପୋଖରୀ କହନ୍ତି । ଏଇଠି ବିନୋଦବିହାରୀ ଠାକୁର ଚନ୍ଦନକୁ ବିଜେକରି ଚାପ ଖେଳନ୍ତି । ଛୋଟ ଦେଉଳଟି ନାଁ ଚନ୍ଦନ ମଣ୍ଡପ । ସେଇଠୁ ସିଧା ଆସି ବୁଢ଼ା ଓସ୍ତଗଛ ଛକ ପାଖେ ଗୁଡ଼ିଏ ମୋଚିଘର । ଛକ ବୁଲିଲେ କେତେଗୁଡ଼ିଏ ମାରୁଆଡ଼ି ଦୋକାନ । ଏଠି ଲୁଗାପଟା କିଣାବିକା ହୁଏ । ଏଇଟା ଚଉଧୁରିବଜାର ବୋଲାଏ । ସଡ଼କ କଡ଼ରେ କେତୋଟି ଛଠାଖିଲିପାନ ଓ ବିଡ଼ି ଦୋକାନ ମାତ୍ର । ବେଳ ବୁଡ଼ିଲେ ତିନିକୋଣିଆ ବାଉଁଶ ବୁଣା ଗୋଳିଆ ଟୋପର ଭିତରେ ଡିବି ଆଲୁଅ ଜାଳି କାରବାର ଚାଲିଥାଏ ଏଇ ଛୋଟ ଦୋକାନମାନଙ୍କରେ ।

ସେଇଠୁ ବାଲୁବଜାର ଛକଠାରୁ ବିନୋଦବିହାରୀଙ୍କ ଦେଉଳବାଟେ ବସାକୁ ବାହୁଡ଼ିଲୁ । ରାସ୍ତାର ଡାହାଣରେ ବାଙ୍କାବଜାର ଗଳି । ଆଉ ଗୋଟିଏ ଦୁଇଟି ଗଳି । ପରେ ବସା, ଏଥରକ ଆଉ କଟକ ସହରଟା ଦେଖିହେଲା ନାହିଁ ।

ତା' ପରେ ୧୯୧୬ରେ ମୁଁ ପୁଣି ଆସିଲି କଟକ, ମାଟ୍ରିକ୍ ପରୀକ୍ଷା ଦେବାକୁ । ଆସି ରହିଲି ମହମଦିଆ ବଜାର ଛକର ଅଳ୍ପବାଟରେ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀନାରାୟଣ ମନ୍ଦିର ଗଳିରେ । ନିହାତି ଅଣଓସାରିଆ ଗଳି । ବାଟରେ ଛୋଟବଡ଼ ଢିମା ପଥର । ସେଥିରେ ପୁଣି ରାସ୍ତାର ଏପଟେ ସେପଟେ ଅଳିଆଗଦା । କହିବାକୁ ଗଲେ ଏକପଦୀ ମାର୍ଗ । ସାବଧାନ ହୋଇ ଯିବା ଆସିବା କଥା । ଟିକିଏ ଅଣ ହୁସିଆର ହେଲେ ବାଟରେ ଝୁଣ୍ଟିପଡ଼ିବା ନିଶ୍ଚିତ ।

ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀନାରାୟଣ ମନ୍ଦିର ଗଳିରେ ମୋ ପିଉସା ସ୍ୱର୍ଗତ ବାଞ୍ଛାନିଧି ଦାସଙ୍କ ଘରେ ରହି ପରୀକ୍ଷା ଦେବାକୁ ଗଲି । ପରୀକ୍ଷା ସେଣ୍ଟର ହୋଇଥାଏ କଲିଜିଏଟ୍ ସ୍କୁଲ୍ । ସେତେବେଳେ ସ୍କୁଲ୍‌ର ହେଡ୍‌ମାଷ୍ଟର ଥାଆନ୍ତି ହଣ୍ଟର-ସନ୍ ସାହେବ ।

ଚନ୍ଦନ ପୋଖରୀ ବାଁ ପଟ ରାସ୍ତା ଆଗରେ ଆଉ ଗଙ୍ଗାମନ୍ଦିର ପୋଖରୀ ହୁଡ଼ାକୁ ଲାଗି କଲିଜିଏଟ୍ ସ୍କୁଲ୍ । ଶୁଣିଲି ଏଠି ଆଗେ ଅଦାଲତ ହେଉଥିଲା । ପରୀକ୍ଷା ହେବାର ୨।୩ ଦିନପରେ କୋଉଠି ପ୍ରଶ୍ନସବୁ ଜଣାପଡ଼ିବାରୁ ଏଥର ପରୀକ୍ଷା ବନ୍ଦହେଲା । ମନ ଦୁଃଖରେ ଗାଁକୁ ଫେରି ପ୍ରାୟ ମାସକ ପରେ ପୁଣି ପରୀକ୍ଷା ହେଲା । ପରୀକ୍ଷା ଦେଇ ଗାଆଁକୁ ଗଲି । ଶୁଣିଲି ମୁଁ ପ୍ରଥମ ଶ୍ରେଣୀରେ ପାସ୍ କରିଛି । ଆସିଲି କଟକ । ସେତେବେଳେ ପ୍ରଥମ ଶ୍ରେଣୀରେ ପାସ୍ କରିଥିବା ଛାତ୍ରଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ B. L. S.— (ବଟାନି, ଲଜିକ୍ ଅଉ ସଂସ୍କୃତ) ଗ୍ରୁପ୍ ସହଜରେ ମିଳୁଥିଲା । ମୁଁ ସେଇ ଗ୍ରୁପ୍‌ନେଲି ।

ଏଥର କଟକରେ ରହଣୀ ମୋର ଲାଲ୍‌ବାଗ ଛକ ପାଖରେ । ଅଳ୍ପବାଟରେ ନିମଚଉଡ଼ି । ସେଠି 'ଗୋବିନ୍ଦ ରଥ' ଲନ୍ । ଆମ ଗାଆଁପାଖ ପାଟପୁରର ପଣ୍ଡିତ ଗୋବିନ୍ଦ ରଥେ ଏଠି ରହୁଥିଲେ । ସେ ମୋ

ବାପାଙ୍କ ବନ୍ଧୁ । ମୁଁ ତାଙ୍କୁ ଭେଟିବାକୁ ଗଲି । ସେ ଭାରି ଆଦର କରି ପଚାରିଲେ—"ବାପା, କଟକ ସହର ବୁଲି ଦେଖିଲୁଣି ? ଯାକୁ 'ବାଉନ ବଜାର—ତେପନ ଗଲି' କହନ୍ତି । ନେ' ବହି ଦି'ଖଣ୍ଡି ନେ' । ଯାକୁ ମୁଁ ଲେଖିଛି । ବହି ପଢ଼ିବୁ, ବଜାର ସବୁ ଜାଣିବୁ, ଦେଖିବୁ । ପୁଣି—ମୋ ପାଖକୁ ଆସିବୁ ।'

ମୁଁ ମନଦେଇ ବଡ଼ ଉତ୍କଣ୍ଠାର ସହିତ ବହି ଦି' ଖଣ୍ଡି ପଢ଼ିଲି । ଖଣ୍ଡିଏ ୧୮୮୪ରେ ମିଶନ୍ ପ୍ରେସ୍ ଛାପାଖାନାରେ ଓ ଆଉ ଖଣ୍ଡିଏ ଦଶବର୍ଷପରେ ୧୮୯୪ରେ ଅରୁଣୋଦୟ ଛାପାଖାନାରେ ଛପା ହୋଇଛି । ଏଇଠି ଟିକିଏ ସ୍ୱର୍ଗତ ଗୋବିନ୍ଦ ରଥଙ୍କ କଥା ଶୁଣନ୍ତୁ—

ଯେତେବେଳେ ବଙ୍ଗଳା ଭାଷା ଓଡ଼ିଆ ପିଲାଙ୍କୁ ପଢ଼ାଇବା ପ୍ରସ୍ତାବ ଚାଲିଥାଏ, ସେତିକିବେଳେ ରଥେ ଆମର ପୁଅଝିଅଙ୍କର ବର୍ଣ୍ଣ ପରିଚୟ ଓ ପ୍ରାଥମିକ ଶିକ୍ଷାଲାଗି ଖଣ୍ଡିଏ ବହି ଲେଖି ଛପାଇଲେ । ବହିଟିର ନାଆଁ "ବର୍ଣ୍ଣବୋଧକ" । ମନେପଡ଼େ ଏଇ ବହି ପ୍ରଥମେ ମୁଁ ପିଲାଦିନେ ପଢ଼ି ବର୍ଣ୍ଣଶିକ୍ଷା କରିଛି । ଆଜି ଏ ବହି ଦୁର୍ଲ୍ଲଭ । ଖଣ୍ଡିଏ ଅଷ୍ଟମ ସଂସ୍କରଣ "ବର୍ଣ୍ଣବୋଧକ" (୧୮୮୭) ମୁଁ ବହୁ ଶ୍ରମ ସାଧନାରେ ସଂଗ୍ରହ କରି ପୂଜାପୋଥି ଭଳି ସାଇତି ରଖିଛି । ମୋର କେତେ ବନ୍ଧୁଙ୍କୁ ମୁଁ ଏ ବହିଖଣ୍ଡି ମଧ୍ୟ ଦେଖାଇଛି । ରଥେ ଅନେକ ଛୋଟବଡ଼ ବହି ଲେଖିଛନ୍ତି । ସବୁଗୁଡ଼ିକ ଆଉ ମିଳିବାର ଆଶା ଅଳ୍ପ । ତାଙ୍କରି ଦିଖଣ୍ଡି ଛପାବହି 'କଟକ ଦର୍ଶନ' ଓ 'ରାଜଧାନୀ କଟକ ନଗରୀ' ମୁଁ ତାଙ୍କଠାରୁ ପାଇ ସାଇତିଛି । ସେଦିନ ମୋର ବନ୍ଧୁ ଇଞ୍ଜିନିୟର ଶ୍ରୀ ନିମାଇଁ ଚରଣ ପାଣିଙ୍କୁ ଏ ଦୁଇଖଣ୍ଡି ବହି ଦେଖାଇ, ସେଥିରୁ ସାମାନ୍ୟ କିଛି ପାଠ ମୋ' ଲେଖାରେ ଉଦ୍ଧାର କରିବି ବୋଲି କହିଲି । ସେ ବଡ଼ ଆଗ୍ରହରେ ମୋତେ ଏପରି କରିବାକୁ ଉତ୍ସାହିତ କଲେ ।

ସହୃଦୟ ପାଠକ ପାଠିକାମାନଙ୍କୁ ସେ ଦୁଇଖଣ୍ଡି ବହିରୁ ଅଳ୍ପ କିଛି ଲେଖା ଦେଉଛି । କଟକ ସହରର ପୁରୁଣା ଦିନ କଥା କିଛି ସେମାନଙ୍କ ଗୋଚରକୁ ଆସିବ, ଏଇ ଆଶାରେ ।

ପ୍ରଥମ ଖଣ୍ଡିକର ନାମ "କଟକ ଦର୍ଶନ" (୧୮୮୪)ରେ ଧାଡ଼ି ମୁଣ୍ଡିଆ ହୋଇ ସହରର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ସ୍ଥାନର ବର୍ଣ୍ଣନା ସ୍ଥାନ ପାଇଛି ଏବଂ ବହୁ ସ୍ଥାନରୁ ବିଶେଷ-ବିଶେଷ ବର୍ଣ୍ଣନା କରାଯାଇଅଛି । ୨ୟ ଖଣ୍ଡି "ରାଜଧାନୀ କଟକ ନଗରୀ" (୧୮୯୪) ପୁସ୍ତିକାଟି ଅପେକ୍ଷାକୃତ କ୍ଷୁଦ୍ର କଳେବର ହେଲେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଚାରିଗୋଟି ପରିକ୍ରମା ମଧ୍ୟରେ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ବଜାରର ବର୍ଣ୍ଣନା ଏଥିରେ ସ୍ଥାନ ପାଇଅଛି ।

ମୁଁ ଉଭୟ ପୁସ୍ତକରୁ କିଛି କିଛି ନିମ୍ନରେ ଉଦ୍ଧାର କରୁଛି କଟକ ସହରର ବହୁ ପୂର୍ବାବସ୍ଥାର ପରିଚୟ ଲାଗି । ଏଥିରୁ ସହଜେ ଅନୁମାନ କରିପାରିବେ ଏ ପୁସ୍ତକ ଗୁଡ଼ିକର ପୁନର୍ମୁଦ୍ରଣ କେତେଦୂର ଆବଶ୍ୟକ । ଆମ ସର୍କାର ଏଥିପ୍ରତି ଟିକିଏ ଦୃଷ୍ଟି ଦେବେକି ?

ରାଜଧାନୀ
କଟକ ନଗରୀ (୧୮୯୪—ପ୍ରଥମ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ) :

"ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ରାଜଧାନୀ କଟକ ନଗର । କାଠଯୋଡ଼ୀ ମହାନଦୀ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ସୁନ୍ଦର ।।
ପୂର୍ବରେ କୃତ୍ରିମ ଖାଲ ହୋଇଛି ନିର୍ମିତ । ତେଣୁ ଏ ସହଜେ ଦ୍ୱୀପାକାର ଅନୁମିତ ।।"

x x x x

(ପୁସ୍ତକରୁ ସ୍ଥୂଳତଃ କଟକ ସହରର ଅବସ୍ଥିତି ବର୍ଣ୍ଣନା ଉଦ୍ଧାର ପରେ) :—

"ପ୍ରଥମରେ କାଠଯୋଡ଼ୀ ପ୍ରସ୍ତରର ସେତୁ । ଶିଳ୍ପଚତୁରୀର ବନ୍ଧୁ ଦେଖିବାର ହେତୁ ।।
ଅତି ପୂର୍ବକାଳେ ଏହି ଉତ୍କଳ ଦେଶରେ । ଥିଲେ ନୃପ ମରକତ କେଶରୀ ନାମରେ ।।
ତାହାଙ୍କର ଅଟେ ଏହି କୀର୍ତ୍ତି ଅନୁପମ । କାହିଁ ସେତୁ ଅଛି ଏହି ଦୃଢ଼ ସେତୁ ସମ ?"

x x x x

ଏହାପରେ କଲେକ୍ଟରଏଟ୍ ବର୍ଣ୍ଣନା :—

“ରାଜପ୍ରାସାଦ ବିରାଜେ କାଠଯୋଡ଼ୀ ତୀରେ । କରନ୍ତି ଶ୍ରୀ କଲେକ୍ଟର ବିଚାର ଏଥିରେ ।
ନଟରାଜ ଜଳରାଜଙ୍କର ଏହିଠାରେ । ଅଭିନୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଦେଖାଯାଏ ବାରେ ବାରେ ।”

x x x x

[ରେଭେନ୍ସା କଲେଜ ସେତେବେଳେ ଲାଲବାଗ ଛକରୁ କାଠଯୋଡ଼ୀକୁ ପଡ଼ିଥିବା ରାସ୍ତା କଡ଼ରେ ଥିଲା । (ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ଯାହା କଲିଜିଏଟ୍ ସ୍କୁଲ)]

କଲେଜ :—

“ଏ ଗୃହରେ ନବଭାବେ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଛାତ୍ରଗଣ । କରନ୍ତି ହରଷମନେ ବିଦ୍ୟା ଅଧ୍ୟୟନ ।।
ବୃତ୍ତିଭୋଗୀ ଅଧ୍ୟାପକ ବହୁତ ଏଠାରେ । ନିଯୁକ୍ତ ଅଛନ୍ତି ସଦା ଇଂରାଜୀ ଶିକ୍ଷାରେ ।।
ଏକାଳେ ଇଂରାଜୀ ରାଜଭାଷା ଲୋକଙ୍କର । ତେଣୁ ସେ ଭାଷା ଶିକ୍ଷାରେ ଅଧିକ ଆଦର ।।”

x x x x

କଲେଜ ଗୃହ ତୋଳିବାରେ ବଦାନ୍ୟ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିମାନଙ୍କ ଦାନ :—

“କୃଷ୍ଣଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ଭଞ୍ଜଦେବ ସ୍ୱର୍ଗରେ ବସତି । କରିଛନ୍ତି ଉତ୍କଳରେ ରଖି ଏ କୀରତି ।।
ରାମଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ଭଞ୍ଜଦେବ ଶିକ୍ଷିତ ରତନ । ମୁକ୍ତହସ୍ତେ ଦାନକଲେ ଏଥି କେତେ ଧନ ।।”

x x x x

“ଆଉ କେତେ ବଡ଼ ବଡ଼ ଧନୀଜନମାନେ । ଯଶପୁଣ୍ୟ ଅର୍ଜିଛନ୍ତି ନିଜ ଅର୍ଥଦାନେ ।।
ରେଭେନ୍ସା ନାମେ ଥିଲେ ଯେ କମିଶନର । କରିଥିଲେ ଏଥିପ୍ରତି ଯତ୍ନ ବହୁତର ।।
ତାହାଙ୍କ ନାମରେ ଏହା ହୋଇଛି ଆଖ୍ୟାତ । କଟକରେ ଏଥିଁ ଭଳି ଅଛି କେ ବିଖ୍ୟାତ ।।”

x x x x

ଏହିଠାରେ ପୁସ୍ତକର ଫୁଟ୍‌ନୋଟରେ ଲେଖାଅଛି :—

• ମହାରାଜ କୃଷ୍ଣଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ଭଞ୍ଜଦେବ କୋଡ଼ିଏ ସହସ୍ରଟଙ୍କା ଏବଂ ତାହାଙ୍କପୁତ୍ର ମହାରାଜ ରାମଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ଭଞ୍ଜଦେବ ଦଶସହସ୍ର ଟଙ୍କା ଦାନ କରିଅଛନ୍ତି ।

ବାଲୁବଜାର

“ଶ୍ରେଣୀବଦ୍ଧ ଅଟ୍ଟାଳିକା କିବା ମନୋରମ । ବିଖ୍ୟାତ ବାଲୁବଜାର ଅଟେ ଯାର ନାମ ।।
ନଦୀସ୍ରୋତପରି ଜନେ ଯାଉଛନ୍ତି ଚଳି । ଘୋଡ଼ାଗାଡ଼ି ଚଳୁଅଛି ପୁଣି ଭଳି ଭଳି ।।

x x x x

“ଏ ବାଣିଜ୍ୟ କରୁଛନ୍ତି ହେ ଯବନ ଲୋକେ । ଉତ୍କଳବାସୀ କେବଳ ରହିଛନ୍ତି ଥୋକେ ।।
କଲିକତାରୁ ବଣିକେ ଏ ଦ୍ରବ୍ୟ ଆଣନ୍ତି । ଯଥା ଲାଭକରି ନିଜ ଜୀବିକା ଚଳନ୍ତି ।।
ମରହଟ୍ଟା କାଳୁଁ ଥିଲା ନିମ ତରୁବର । ତେଣୁ ଏ ନିମଚଉଡ଼ି ହେଲା ଆଖ୍ୟାଧର ।।”

x x x x

ନିମଚଉଡ଼ିସ୍ଥ ଜୁମ୍ମା ମସଜିଦ୍ :—

“ଏଠାରେ ରହିଛି ରମ୍ୟ ଜୁମା ମସଜିଦ । ବିଶେଷ ଉତ୍ସବ ହୁଏ ଏବେ ସେଠା ଇଦ ।।
ଯାହାଙ୍ଗୀର ସମୟରୁ ଏ କୀର୍ତ୍ତି ସ୍ଥାପିତ । ଫକୀରଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ନିମ୍ନେ ଗୁମ୍ଫା ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠିତ ।।”

x x x x

ନୂଆସଡ଼କ

"ଶୁଣିଛ ନୂଆସଡ଼କ ନାମଟି ଯାହାର । ବିଲାତୀ ବସନ ସ୍ଥାନ ଏ ସେହି ବଜାର ।।
ମାରୱାଡ଼ି ଲୋକେ ସବୁ ବିଲାତୀ ବସନ । ବିକ୍ରୟକରି ଅର୍ଜନ୍ତି ସହସ୍ରଶି ଧନ ।।
ଏହି ବସନ ଯୋଗରୁ ଦେଶୀତନ୍ତି କୁଳ । କ୍ରମେ କ୍ରମେ ହେଉଛନ୍ତି ସକଳେ ନିର୍ମୂଳ ।।"

× × × ×

ଚଉଧୁରୀ ବଜାର

"ସୁଗନ୍ଧ ଅତରମାନ ମିଳଇ ଏଠାରେ । ସୁଖାଦ୍ୟ ମସଲା ସବୁ ଯାହା ଲୋଡ଼ିବାରେ ।।
ଏଠାରୁ ପୂର୍ବଦିଗରେ ଦିଶେ ସେଉଁବାଟ । ତାର ଶେଷେ ବସିଅଛି ଏବେ ନୂଆହାଟ ।।"

× × × ×

"ପାଶେ ଦେଖାଯାଉଅଛି ଦେଉଳ ସୁନ୍ଦର । ନାନକ ପନ୍ଥୀମାନଙ୍କ କୀର୍ତ୍ତି ଏ ପୂର୍ବର ।।
କରସ୍ଥାହା ସମିତିଙ୍କ ବିସ୍ତର ଭବନ । ମନୋହର ଉଦ୍ୟାନରେ ପକାଅ ନୟନ ।।
ଜିମିଦ ସାହେବ ନାମେ ଥିଲେ ମାଜିଷ୍ଟର । ଏ ସ୍ଥାନକୁ କରିଛନ୍ତି ଅତି ଦେଢସ୍ତର ।।"

(କରସ୍ଥାହା—ମ୍ୟୁନିସିପାଲ୍ଟି)

× × × ×

ଗୋପାଳଜୀ ମଠ

ସନ୍ମୁଖରେ ଦେଖବନ୍ଧୁ ଦିବ୍ୟ ରମ୍ୟ ସ୍ଥାନ । ଶ୍ରୀଗୋପାଳଜୀଉ ଦେବ ଯହିଁ ବିଦ୍ୟମାନ ।।

× × × ×

ଚଉଧୁରୀ ବଜାର

"ଦେଖ ଶ୍ରୀ ଗୌରୀଶଙ୍କର ବାବୁଙ୍କ ଭବନ । ଟୁଙ୍ଗି କୋଠାଟି ଦିଶଇ କେଡ଼େ ଶୋଭବନ ।।
ଏଥୁଅନ୍ତେ କିଛିଦୂର ଯାଅ ଅଗ୍ରସର । ଚନ୍ଦନ ମଣ୍ଡପ ଦିଶୁଅଛି ମନୋହର ।।
ସରୋବର ଦେଖ ଆସି ଅଟକୁ ବାହାରି । ଖେଳନ୍ତି ଏଥିରେ ଗୋପ ବିନୋଦ ବିହାରୀ ।।
ଅଗ୍ରତରେ ଶୋଭୁପାଏ ଅଦାଲତ ଘର । ଯାହାର ନାମ ଶୁଣିଲେ ଲୋକେ ମନେ ଡର ।।"

× × × ×

ଗଙ୍ଗାମନ୍ଦିର

"ଏ ବୃହ ସମ୍ମୁଖେ ଗଙ୍ଗାମନ୍ଦିର ନାମରେ । ଶୋଭୁ ପାଉଅଛି ଏକ ବଡ଼ ସରୋବରେ ।।
ଗଙ୍ଗାମନ୍ଦିର ସବସୀ ପାଶେ ଗଙ୍ଗେଶ୍ୱର । ବହୁ ପୁଣ୍ୟ ହେବ ବନ୍ଧୁ ଦରଶନ କର ।।"

× × × ×

ଦରଘାବଜାର

"ଫେରି ଦେଖ ଏବେ ବନ୍ଧୁ ଦରଘାବଜାର । ସନ୍ମୁଖରେ ଶୋଭୁପାଏ ଔଷଧ ଆଗାର ।।
କରସ୍ଥାହା ସମିତି ଯେ ଦୟାଲବ ଧରି । ଉପକାର କରିଛନ୍ତି ଏହା ଥାପିକରି ।।

(ଔଷଧାଗାର—ମ୍ୟୁନିସିପାଲ୍ଟି ଡାକ୍ତରଖାନା)

× × × ×

କଟକ ପ୍ରିଣ୍ଟିଂ କମ୍ପାନୀ

"ଉତ୍କଳ ଦୀପିକା ପତ୍ର ଏଥି ମୁଦ୍ରାଙ୍କନ । ଜନ୍ମଧନୁ ଏହିଠାରେ ହୁଏ ସମ୍ପାଦନ ।।
ବାବୁ ଶ୍ରୀ ବିଚିତ୍ରାନନ୍ଦ ବିଶେଷ ଯତନ । କରିଣ ଏହି କମ୍ପାନୀ କଲେକ ସ୍ଥାପନ ।।

ମହାସତ ଭଗୀରଥ ଥିଲେ ଅନୁକୂଳ । ବହୁଧନ ଏଥିଠାରେ କରିଛନ୍ତି ଠୂଳ ।।
ଏହିଗୃହେ ବସେ ବନ୍ଧୁ ଭଦ୍ରଜନ ସମାଜ । ତର୍କରେ ମିଶ୍ରାନ୍ତ ଯହିଁ ନାନାରୂପ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ।।"

× × × ×

କଦମରସୁଲ

"କଦମରସୁଲ ଏଥୁଅନ୍ତେ ଦେଖସତ । ନମନ୍ତି ଯାହାଙ୍କ ପଦେ ଯବନ ସମାଜ ।।
ଭକ୍ତିଭାବେ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣହୋଇ କେତେ ହିନ୍ଦୁଜନ । କରନ୍ତି ଏଠାଂମୃର୍ତ୍ତିକା କପାଳେ ଲେପନ ।।"

× × × ×

କାରାଗାର

"ଅତିପୂର୍ବ କାଳଁ ଏହି ଲିଲ୍ଲାବାଦଯାହା । କରିଥିଲେ ଅନ୍ୟସାଧ୍ୟ ନୁହଁଇଟି ଯାହା ।।
ଭୟଙ୍କର କାରାଗାର ଦେଖ ବାମପାଶେ । ରକତ ଶୁଖଲ ହାତେ ନରଗଣ ପାଶେ ।।"

× × × ×

ପାଗଲାଗାରଦ

"ଅଗ୍ରତରେ ଦେଖବନ୍ଧୁ ପାଗଳା ଗାରଦ । ଦୁଃଖମୟ ସ୍ଥାନ ଏହି ସଦା ନିରନ୍ଦନ ।।"

× × × ×

କଟକ ଏକାଡେମୀ

"ନିକଟରେ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଦେଖ ବିରାଜିତ । ଏକାଡେମୀ ନାମେ ଯେହୁ ହୋଇଛି ବିଦିତ ।।"

× × × ×

ଶ୍ରୀପ୍ୟାରୀ ଶ୍ରୀଗୋବିନ୍ଦଙ୍କ ବିଶେଷ ଯତ୍ନରେ । ପ୍ରଥମେ ସ୍ଥାପିତ ଏହା କଟକ ନଗରେ ।।
କହିଥିଲେ ଦିନେ ପ୍ୟାରୀ ହସି ହସିକରି । ଏହି ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ମୋର ପୁତ୍ରକନ୍ୟା ପରି ।।
ଅସମୟେ ପ୍ରିୟ ପ୍ୟାରୀ ହେଲେ ପରଲୋକ । ହୃଦୟରେ ଜନ୍ମିଥିଲା ଗୁରୁତର ଶୋକ ।।

× × × ×

ପ୍ରିୟବନ୍ଧୁ ପ୍ୟାରୀଙ୍କର ଅତି ପୁରାତନ । ପତ୍ରରୁ ଏଠାରେ କିଛି କଲି ସଂଯୋଜନ ।।

କଟକ

ତା ୧୦ । ୪ । ୭୭

ରଥେ ।

ଆମ୍ଭମାନଙ୍କର ସ୍କୁଲ ଏକପ୍ରକାର ଉତ୍ତମ ଚଳୁଅଛି । ପ୍ରାୟ ୭୦ ସରିକି ପିଲା ହେଲାଣି । ଗତ ଦିଗଦନ ମ୍ୟାନେଜିଂ କମିଟିର ପ୍ରଥମ ଅଧିବେଶନ ହୋଇଯାଇଅଛି । ବାବୁ କୈଳାଶଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ଘୋଷ ସଭାପତି, ବାବୁ ନିମାଇଚରଣ ନେଉରୀ ସହକାରୀ ସଭାପତି ଓ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷ, ବାବୁ ହରନାଥ ଭଟ୍ଟାଚାର୍ଯ୍ୟ, ମୌଲବୀ ଅବଦୁଲ କାଦର, ବାବୁ ସଦାନନ୍ଦ ବେହୁରା ସଭ୍ୟ ଏବଂ ଅଧାନ ସମ୍ପାଦକ ନିଯୁକ୍ତ ହୋଇଅଛି । × × × ତୁମ୍ଭସକାଶେ ଅଦ୍ୟାବଧି ପିଲାଙ୍କର ଦୁଃଖ ଯାଇନାହିଁ । କାଲି ତୁମ୍ଭେ ଆସିବ, ପରଦିନ ଆସିବ ଏହି ପ୍ରକାରେ × × × ତୁମ୍ଭେ ଶୀଘ୍ର ଆସିବ । ଆଉ ବିଳମ୍ବ ନକରିବ । ଆଗାମୀ ସପ୍ତାହ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଯେମନ୍ତେ ତୁମ୍ଭେ ଆସି ଏଠାରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିବ ।

ଭବଦୀୟ ଏକାତ୍ମା
ଶ୍ରୀ ପ୍ୟାରୀମୋହନ ଆଚାର୍ଯ୍ୟ

× × × ×

ସୁତାହାଟ

"ଏ ଅନ୍ତେ ତିନିକୋଣିଆ ବରିଗ୍ନ ସୁନ୍ଦର । ଧାଡ଼ି ଧାଡ଼ି ଦେବଦାରୁ ବିଟପୀନିକର ।।
ଆଗ୍ରତରେ ଶୋଭାପାଏ ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟିୟାନଙ୍କର । ଧର୍ମ୍ମ ସମ୍ମିଳିତ ଗୃହପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଏକ ଘର ।।"

× × × ×

"ଆଗରେ ତେଲଙ୍ଗାଙ୍କର କୁଟୀର ଭବନ । ଘଣ୍ଟି ଘଣ୍ଟି ଦିଶୁଅଛି କଦଳୀ କାନନ ।।
ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମାଙ୍କ କଟକେ ବନ୍ଧୁ ଗରିବ ତେଲିଙ୍ଗୀ । ଚାଳିବା ଚଳାନ୍ତି ଶ୍ରମସାଧ୍ୟ କର୍ମେ ଲାଗି ।।"

× × × ×

ବକ୍ସିବଜାର

"ଆସ ଆସ ବନ୍ଧୁ ମୋର ଦେଖିବ ଆଗର । କଟକେ ଅଟେ ପ୍ରଧାନ ଏହି ଡାକଘର ।।
ଗଣିଗଣି ପତ୍ର ଜମା ହୁଅଇ ନିମେଷେ । ଚିହ୍ନିତ ହୋଇ ଚଳଇ ଏ ଦେଶେ ବିଦେଶେ ।।
ପୂର୍ବପାଶେ ଶୋଭାପାଏ ବକସି ବଜାର । ଶ୍ୱେତପୁରୀଙ୍କର କୋଠା ପ୍ରକାଣ୍ଡ ଆକାର ।।
ଅଛନ୍ତି ଏ ବଜାରରେ ସୁନାରୀ ବଣିକ । ସ୍ୱର୍ଣ୍ଣରୌପ୍ୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟେ ତାଙ୍କ ଗୌରବ ଅଧିକ ।।"

× × × ×

ପଲଟନ ବଜାର

"ଏଥୁଅନ୍ତେ ଆସବନ୍ଧୁ ସୈନିକ ବଜାର । ଦେଖିବା ମନରେ ହେବ ଆନନ୍ଦ ଅପାର ।।
ପ୍ରବଳ ପ୍ରତାପୀ ସବୁ ବୀର ସୈନ୍ୟଗଣ । ପାଇଛନ୍ତି ଏଥିମଧ୍ୟେ ନିବାସ ଭବନ ।।"

× × × ×

"ପରେଡ଼ ଭୂମିରେ ସୈନ୍ୟ ହେଲେ ଏକତ୍ରିତ । ଅପୂର୍ବ ଦୃଶ୍ୟ ସେଠାରେ ହୁଅଇ ଲକ୍ଷିତ ।।
ବୀରବାଜା ଘନ ଘନ ବାଜଇ ପ୍ରଖରେ । ଦୁର୍ବଳ ଶରୀରେ ବଳ ବିଶେଷ ସଞ୍ଚରେ ।।"

× × × ×

"ଏଠାରେ କରିଥିବାରୁ ବାସ ସେନାଗଣ । ମଦ ଦ୍ରବ୍ୟର ବିକ୍ରୟ ଅଛି ନିବାରଣ ।।
ପାଶେ ସୁରମ୍ୟ ଦେଉଳ ଏଥି ଦୃଷ୍ଟିକର । ଅଛନ୍ତି ଏଥିରେ ଶିବ ଶ୍ରୀଅମରେଶ୍ୱର ।।"

× × × ×

ଦ୍ୱିତୀୟ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ

"ବାମପାଶେ ଅବସ୍ଥିତ ଯେ ବିଶାଳଘର । ତ୍ରିକୋଣ ଗବାକ୍ଷ ସବୁ ଦିଶେ ମନୋହର ।।
ଗୋରବାଳକେ ଏଠାରେ କରିଣ ପଠନ । ନାନା ବିଦ୍ୟାରେ କରନ୍ତି ଜ୍ଞାନ ଉପାର୍ଜନ ।।"

× × × ×

ଆନାଥାଶ୍ରମ

"ଏ ଅନ୍ତେ ଦେଖିବ ବନ୍ଧୁ ପ୍ରକାଣ୍ଡ ଭବନ । କେବେ ଦେଖିନାହିଁ ଯାହା ତୁମ୍ଭର ନୟନ ।।"

× × × ×

ମିଶନ କଲେଜ

"ଏ ଗୃହର ପଶ୍ଚିମ ଅଂଶେ ମିଶନ କଲେଜ । ପଢ଼ନ୍ତି ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟବାଳକେ ହିନ୍ଦୁ ଅଲ୍ପ ହେଜ ।।
ଏହି ପ୍ରାଙ୍ଗଣରେ ଅଛି ମିଶନାରୀଙ୍କର । ମେଶିନପ୍ରେସ ସଜ୍ଜିତ ମୁଦ୍ରାଯନ୍ତ୍ରଘର ।।
ସବୁଠାରୁ ଭଲଛପା ହୁଏ ଏ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରରେ । ଯେତେଅଛି ଛାପାଖାନା କଟକ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ।।
ମିଶନାରୀଙ୍କର କିନ୍ତୁ ଏମନ୍ତ ସଂସ୍କାର । ହିନ୍ଦୁ ଧର୍ମଗ୍ରନ୍ଥ ଏଥୁଁ ନୋହିବ ପ୍ରଚାର ।।"

× × × ×

ମିଃ ଦାସଙ୍କ ଘର

"ଦେଖ ମଧୁବାବୁଙ୍କର ତ୍ରିତଳ ଭବନ । ସୁନ୍ଦର ଶିଳ୍ପନମାନ ମଣ୍ଡିତେ ଗଠନ ॥
ବଡ଼ଦେଉଳ ମାମଲା କରଇଣ ଶାନ୍ତି । ଉତ୍କଳ ଭୂମିରେ ବାବୁ ଲଭିଥିଲେ ଖ୍ୟାତି ॥"

× × × ×

କଟକଚଣ୍ଡୀ

"ଆଉ କିଛି ଦୂରବନ୍ଧୁ ହେଲେ ଅଗ୍ରସର । କଟକଚଣ୍ଡୀ ହୋଇବେ ନୟନ ଗୋଚର ॥
ଏହି ପୀଠେ ରହି ଏକ ଅନ୍ଧ ବଇଷ୍ଣବ । ଭିକ୍ଷାକରି ନିର୍ମାଣିଲେ ଦେଉଳାଦି ସର୍ବ ॥
ଯେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ସାଧନେ କ୍ଷମ ଅଟନ୍ତି ମାଧବ । ଭିକ୍ଷୁକ ଚେଷ୍ଟାରେ ମଧ୍ୟ ସେ ଅଟେ ସମ୍ଭବ ॥
ଚଣ୍ଡୀଦେବୀ ପୂର୍ବେଥିଲେ କିଲ୍ଲାଦ୍ୱାର ଦେଶେ । ଏଠି ବିଜେଇଁ ରାଜାଙ୍କ ସମରର ଶେଷେ ॥"

× × × ×

ବାରବାଟୀ କିଲ୍ଲା

ଅଗ୍ରତରେ ବିରାଜିଛି ବାରବାଟୀ କିଲ୍ଲା । ଅସୀମ କୌଶଳ ଯାର ପୂର୍ବକାଳେ ଥିଲା ॥
ଅଗମ୍ୟ ଦୁର୍ଭେଦ୍ୟ ଅଟେ ଯେଉଁ ଗଡ଼ଖାଇ । ଶତ୍ରୁଙ୍କ ତ୍ରାସେ ଯେ ପୂର୍ବେ ଥିଲା ତଡ଼ାଇ ॥

× × × ×

ଶ୍ରୀ ଅନଙ୍ଗଭୀମଦେବ ଉତ୍କଳ ରାଜନ । ନିର୍ମାଣି ଥିଲେ ଏ ଦୁର୍ଗ ସୁଦୃଢ଼ ଗଠନ ॥

× × × ×

ପ୍ରକାଣ୍ଡ ଯେ ମସଜିଦ ନିକଟେ ଦିଶୁଛି । ରାଜନ୍ନ ସଉଧ ଥିଲା ବୋଲି ଜଣାଉଛି ॥
ରହିଛି ପ୍ରବାଦ ଏଥି ଅତି ପୁରାତନ । ଦୁର୍ଗମଧ୍ୟେ ନାନାସ୍ଥାନେ କେତେ ଗୁପ୍ତଧନ ॥

× × × ×

ପୁସ୍ତକାଳୟ ବିରାଜେ ଦୁର୍ଗର ପ୍ରାଙ୍ଗଣେ । ବ୍ରିଟିଶ ପୁରୁଷଙ୍କର ଅଶେଷ ଯତନେ ॥

× × × ×

ନାରୀପୁରୁଷ ବାଳକ କେତେ ହୋଇମେଳ । ଖେଳୁଛନ୍ତି ବ୍ୟାଟବଲ ନାମେ ଏକ ଖେଳ ॥
କରନ୍ତି ନାରୀପୁରୁଷେ ଏଥି ନାଚରଙ୍ଗ । ଏସବୁ ଅଟଇ ଆମ୍ଭ ରୁଚିର ବିଭଙ୍ଗ ॥

× × × ×

ମେନାଙ୍କ ନିମିତ୍ତ ଏଥି ଚିକିତ୍ସା ଭବନ । କିବା ରମଣୀୟ କିବା ସୁଦୃଢ଼ ଗଠନ ॥

× × × ×

ଗଡ଼ଗଡ଼ିଆ ଘାଟ

ଅଦୂରେ ପ୍ରୟବାଣବ ଶିବ ନିକେତନ । ମହାନନ୍ଦୀକି ଶଙ୍କର କରନ୍ତି ଦର୍ଶନ ॥
(* ଗଡ଼ଗଡ଼ିଆ ମହାଦେବ).

× × × ×

କାର୍ତ୍ତିକ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣିମା ଦିନ ମେଳା ସଂକୀର୍ତ୍ତନ । ଏଠାରେ ମିଳି କରନ୍ତି ନାଗରିକ ଜନ ॥

× × × ×

ଲାଟଗିରିଜା

"ଏମନ୍ତେ ହୁଅ ବନ୍ଧୁ ପଥେ ଅଗ୍ରସର । ଦେଖିବେ ଲାଟ ଗିରିଜା ଦିଶଇ ସୁନ୍ଦର ॥"

× × × ×

ଇଂରାଜ ପଲ୍ଲୀ

"ସୁବିସ୍ତୀର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଏ ଧବଳ ପଥେ ବନ୍ଧୁ ଆସ । ଇଂରେଜୀ ପୁରୁଷଙ୍କର ଦେଖ ବହୁବାସ ।।
ରାଜବର୍ତ୍ମ ଦୁଇପାଶେ ପ୍ରାଚୀରର ରେଖା । କାହିଁ ଦୂର ପରିଯନ୍ତେ ଯାଉଅଛି ଦେଖା ।।"
(ଦ୍ର: — ଏହା ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନର କାଣ୍ଟନମେଣ୍ଟ ରୋଡ୍)

× × × ×

ଅଶ୍ୱରଥ ଚକ୍ରଧୂଳି କରି ଦେଉଛେ ସ୍ନାନ । ଚଳନ୍ତି କଳାମାନବେ ମନେକରି ଧ୍ୟାନ ।।
ଆହାକି ଇନ୍ଦ୍ରତ୍ୱ ସୁଖ କରନ୍ତିରେ ଭୋଗ । ଅସ୍ମମାନଙ୍କ କପାଳେ ନାହିଁ ଏହି ଯୋଗ ।।

ତାଡ଼ିତ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା ମନ୍ଦିର

ଏଥୁଅନ୍ତେ ଆସ ମୋର ପ୍ରିୟ ବନ୍ଧୁବର । ମେଗ ହାଉସ ନାମରେ ଦେଖ ରମ୍ୟଘର ।।
ଦେଖବନ୍ଧୁ ଏଥୁଅନ୍ତେ ହର୍ଷକରି ଚିତ୍ତ । ତାଡ଼ିତ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା ମନ୍ଦିର କି କଳ ଖଞ୍ଜିତ ।।
ଯେତେବେ ଇଚ୍ଛା ତେତେବେ ଦିଅ ତାରରେ ଖବର । କ୍ଷଣକେ ଯିବ ଆସିବ ସେଠାରୁ ଉତ୍ତର ।।

× × × ×

କମିଶନ୍ କୋଠୀ

ଏଥୁଅନ୍ତେ ଦେଖ ସଙ୍ଗେ ହର୍ମ୍ୟ ମନୋହର । ଏଠାରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଲାଟ ଶ୍ରୀ କମିଶନର ।।

× × × ×

ତୃତୀୟ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ :

ବଡ଼ ଡାକ୍ତରଖାନା

ଦେଖରେ ପ୍ରିୟବାନ୍ଧବ ଚିକିତ୍ସା ମନ୍ଦିର । ଦ୍ୱିତଳ ଭବନ ଦିଶେ କିପରି ରୁଚିର ।।

× × × ×

"ଯେଉଁମାନେ ଗୃହପାଇଁ ଦେଇଥିଲେ ଦାନ । ଗୃହ ଭିତରେ ତାହାଙ୍କ ନାମ ଦୀପ୍ତିମାନ ।।
ଷ୍ଟୁଆର୍ଟ ସାହେବଙ୍କର ଦେଖରେ ଆବାସ । ଅତିଉଚ୍ଚ ଅଟ୍ଟାଳିକା ଭେଦିଛି ଆକାଶ ।।"

× × × ×

ଯୋବ୍ରାଘାଟ କଳଘର

"ଗଗନ ପରଶିଉଠନ୍ତ ମୁଖେ ଧୂମରାଶି । ବାୟୁସାଗର ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଯାଏ ଭସିଭସି ।।

× × × ×

ବିଶାଳ ଘଟିକା ଯନ୍ତ୍ର ଦୁଆର ଉପରେ । ସମ୍ମୁଖ ନଦୀ ସ୍ରୋତକୁ ରୁନ୍ଧି ଚଳେ ଖରେ ।।

× × × ×

ଅଗ୍ନିବୋଟ

"ଏଥୁଅନ୍ତେ ଅଗ୍ନିବୋଟ ଦେଖରେ ବାନ୍ଧବ । ବକ୍ଷରେ ବସାଇଅଛି ସହସ୍ରେ ମାନବ ।।
ଆକାଶକୁ ଧୂମରାଶି ଉଡ଼ାଇ ଉଡ଼ାଇ । ସୁଗମ୍ଭୀର ନାଦକରେ ଗୁମର ଦେଖାଇ ।।"

× × × ×

ଗଉଳିଆଗଞ୍ଜ

"ଅଦୂରେ ଉପନଗର ଗଉଳିଆ ଗଞ୍ଜ । ପ୍ରଜାପୁଞ୍ଜଙ୍କର ବାସ ଦେଖି ଚକ୍ଷୁରଞ୍ଜ ।।
ଗୁମ୍ବୁଜ ଆକୃତି ଚୂଡ଼ ପୁଲିସ ଲାଇନ । ଶୋଭା ପାଉଅଛି ଯେହ୍ନେ ସରିତେ ପୁଳିନ ।।"

× × × ×

ଛତର୍ ବଜାର୍

"ଅଦୂରେ ଦିଶୁଛି ବନ୍ଧୁ ଛତର ବଜାର । ଚଳନ୍ତି ପଥେ ପଥିକ ହଜାର ହଜାର ॥"

X X X X

ଏଥୁଅନ୍ତେ ଦେଖବନ୍ଧୁ ଡିଶେ ମଦଣ୍ଟା । ଯାହାର ପ୍ରସାଦେ ଲୋକେ ହେଉଛନ୍ତି ମାଟି ॥

X X X X

ପଶ୍ଚିମେ ଭଗବତପୁର ଝାଞ୍ଜିର ମଙ୍ଗଳା । ଗ୍ରାମାନ୍ତେ ବିଜେ କଟନ୍ତି ଭବାନୀ ଶୀତଳା ॥

X X X X

ସବାବଗିଚ୍ଛରେ ବାରେ ପକାଅ ନୟନ । ବିଶାଳ ରସାଳ ତରୁ ଭେଦିଛି ଗଗନ ॥

X X X X

ଏଥୁଅନ୍ତେ ଆସବନ୍ଧୁ ତେଲଙ୍ଗାବଜାର । ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଦୋକାନ ଘର ଦେଖିବ ଅପାର ॥

X X X X

(ଏହାପରେ ମାଣିକଘୋଷ ବଜାର, ବାଖରାବାଦ, ଗଣେଶଘାଟ ଓ ସାହେବଜାଦା ବଜାରର ବର୍ଣ୍ଣନା ଅଛି ।)

ନର୍ମେଲ ସ୍କୁଲ ବୋଲି ଯେ ନାମଟି ଏହାର । ସୁପ୍ରସିଦ୍ଧ ରୂପେ ସର୍ବତ୍ର ହୋଇଛି ପ୍ରଚାର ॥

(* ୧୮୬୯ ମସିହାରେ ସ୍ଥାପିତ ।)

X X X X

କାଳୀ ମନ୍ଦିର

ଲାଲବାଗ ଶୋଭାସବୁ ଦେଖିଲ ପୂର୍ବରେ । ଦେହୁଡ଼ୀଠାରୁ ଚଳିବା ପଶ୍ଚିମ ମୁଖରେ ॥

କାଳୀଗଳିରେ ଦେଖିବ କାଳୀଠାକୁରାଣୀ । ବିକଟ ବଦନ ତାଙ୍କ କଟାକ୍ଷ ସୁହାଣୀ ॥

X X X X

ପ୍ରେସ

ଏହିଠାରେ ଦେଖବନ୍ଧୁ ଭିକ୍‌ଟୋରିଆ ପ୍ରେସ । ପୁସ୍ତକ ପତ୍ର ମୁଦ୍ରିତ ହେଉଛି ବିଶେଷ ॥

X X X X

ସଦରଥାନା

"ଏରେ ଚାହିଁଦିଅ ବନ୍ଧୁ ସଦରଥାନାକୁ । ଦୋଷକଲେ ଦୋଷୀଜନେ ଆଣନ୍ତି ଏଠାକୁ ॥

ପାଶେ ଚାନ୍ଦିନୀଚଉକ କ୍ଷୁଦ୍ର ଡାକଘର । ଚଳୁଅଛି ଚିଠିପତ୍ର ତାରଯୋଗେ ଖବର ॥"

X X X X

ଚତୁର୍ଥ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ :

"ଚାନ୍ଦିନୀଚଉକ ଦାଣ୍ଡ ବିଶେଷ ଓସାର । ନାନାବର୍ଣ୍ଣେ ଅଟ୍ଟାଳିକା ହଜାର ହଜାର ॥

ଅନୁକୂଳ ଫଳ ସେହି ସ୍ୱାଦୁ ନାଡ଼ିକେଳ । ଏଥୁଁବାଛି କିଣି ଲୋକେ ଖେଳୁଛନ୍ତି ଖେଳ ॥"

X X X X

ଲେଡ଼ି ଡଫରିନ୍ ହସପିଟାଲ

"ଏଥୁଅନ୍ତେ ଦେଖ ଆସି ଚିକିତ୍ସା ଭବନ । ନାରୀଏ କରନ୍ତି ଏଥି ଔଷଧ ସେବନ ॥

ଡଫରିନ୍ ନାମେ ପୂର୍ବେ ଥିଲେ ବଡ଼ଲାଟ । ତାଙ୍କ ପତ୍ନୀନାମେ ଏହା ହୋଇଛି ପ୍ରକଟ ॥"

X X X X

ଏ ଗୃହ ନିର୍ମାଣ ପାଇଁ ରାଜା ବୈଦ୍ୟନାଥ । ତ୍ରିରିସହସ୍ର ତୋଡ଼ାଟି ଦେଇକଲେ ସାର୍ଥ ॥

X X X X

ଝଣ୍ଡବାସେଲୀ

“ବିଜେ କରିଛନ୍ତି ‘ଏଥି ଶ୍ରାବଣ ବାନମେଳା । ଶ୍ମଶାନଦେବୀଙ୍କ ସଙ୍ଗେ ଯାହାଙ୍କର କେଳି ॥”

× × × ×

ସତୀଚଉରା

“ଅତି ଶ୍ମଶାନ ଦେଖ ଏ ସତୀଚଉର । ଶ୍ମଶାନଚଣ୍ଡୀ ଏଠାରେ ଦିଅନ୍ତି ପହର ॥”

× × × ×

“ଏ ଅଞ୍ଚଳେ ଉପରପଡ଼ା ସମସ୍ତ ବଜାର । ଏଥି ଅଛନ୍ତି ପ୍ରସିଦ୍ଧ କେତେ ସ୍ୱର୍ଣ୍ଣକାର ॥”

× × × ×

ସିଦ୍ଧନାଥ

“ପାଶେ କିଛିଦୂରଗଲେ ସିଦ୍ଧନାଥ ପୀଠ । ଦର୍ଶନ କରିବ ବନ୍ଧୁ ତୁମ୍ଭେ ଧର୍ମନିଷ୍ଠ ॥”

× × × ×

ରାମଗଡ଼ କନିକାକୋଠୀ

“ଯୁଗଳୀର ବିଦ୍ୟାଧର ପୋଖରୀ ଉପର । କନିକା ନୃପତିଙ୍କର ବିରାଜେ ନଅର ॥
ରାମଗଡ଼ ବୋଲି ନାମ ଅଟେ ଯେ ଏହାର । ଦୋଳ ଝୁଲଣରେ ଯାତ୍ରା ଅନେକ ପ୍ରକାର ॥”

× × × ×

(ଏହାପରେ ମହମ୍ମଦିଆ ବଜାର, କାଜିବଜାର, ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ବଲ୍ଲଭ ପ୍ରଭୃତିର ବର୍ଣ୍ଣନା ଅଛି ।)

କାଜିବଜାର ଛକନିକଟ

“ଏଅନ୍ତେ ଗୋଲକଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ବାବୁଙ୍କ ଭବନ । ଉଚ୍ଚ ଅଟେ ଜଣାଯାଏ ସତେ ପୁରାତନ ॥
ମଲ୍ଲପୁତ୍ର ପ୍ରିୟବାବୁ ବଡ ପ୍ରଶଂସିତ । ସଙ୍ଗୀତ କାଶ୍ମୀର ଯାଏ ଅଟନ୍ତି ବିଦିତ ॥”

× × × ×

“ଜମିଦାରଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରେ ବ୍ୟାଘ୍ର ଭୟଙ୍କର । ଯାଙ୍କ ଜମିଦାରୀ ଥିଲା ଅରଣ୍ୟ ଭିତର ॥
ପୂର୍ବମୁଖେ ଗଲେ ମିବ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ବଜାର । ଯହିଁ ଅନ୍ନଧନୀ ଦୁଃଖୀ ହଜାର ହଜାର ॥”

× × × ×

କହିଛି ତ କଟକ ଦର୍ଶନ ଓ ରାଜଧାନୀ କଟକ ନଗରୀ ନାମକ ଦୁଇଖଣ୍ଡି ବହି କଥା । ସେଥି ମଧ୍ୟରୁ ଅଳ୍ପ କିଛି ଉଲ୍ଲେଖ କଲି । ନିମ୍ନରେ ମୋର କଟକ ଦେଖାରୁ କିଛି ଲେଖୁଛି—

ରଥ ଆପଣଙ୍କ ବହିପଢ଼ି, କଟକ ସହର ବୁଲି ଦେଖିଲି, ଦିନେ ଦିନେ ଉପରଓଳି । ବାକି ଯେ କହୁଥିବା ପୁରୁଣା ଲୋକଙ୍କ କଥା ଅନୁସାରେ ‘ଛାଉନ ବଜାର—ଡେପନ ଗଳି’ ଦେଖା ହୋଇ ପାରିନାହିଁ ମୋର ।

୧୯୧୭ ଓ ମୋର ସେ ଆଗର ୧୯୧୨।୧୩ ସାଲର କଟକ ସହର ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଅନେକ ବଦଳା ବଦଳି ଦେଖିଲି । ରଥଙ୍କ ବର୍ଣ୍ଣନା ତ ଛେଡେ ଦୂରରେ ।

ଏବେଳକୁ ସହରରେ ବହୁତ କୋଠାବାଡ଼ୀ ଗଢ଼ିଉଠିଛି । ବାଟଗୁଡ଼ିକ କିନ୍ତୁ ‘ଯଥା ପୂର୍ବଂ—ତଥା ପରମ୍’ । ଅପରିଷ୍କାର କଦସନ୍ତା । ଅସରାଏ ବର୍ଷା ହେଲେ, କିଛି ଦୂରରୁ ଘୋଡ଼ାଗାଡ଼ି ଆସୁଥିବାର ଦେଖି ରାସ୍ତାପାଖ ପିଣ୍ଡା ଉପରକୁ ଚଢ଼ି ନଗଲେ, ଦେହସାରା ପାଣିମିଶା ନାଳିମାଟି ଛିଟାରେ ଚିତ୍ର ହୋଇଯିବା ତଥ, ଗଳିରାସ୍ତା କଥା ତ ନକହିଲେ ଭଲ । ସହରରେ ଦୋକାନବଜାର କିଛି ବଢ଼ିଯାଇଛି । ଚା’ ଦୋକାନ ପ୍ରାୟ ନଥିଲା । ଆମେ କେତେଜଣ ପଢ଼ା ସାଙ୍ଗ ଚା’ ଖାଇବାକୁ

ମନକରି ଖଣ୍ଡିଏ ଘୋଡ଼ାଗାଡ଼ି ଭଡ଼ାରେ କେବେ କେବେ ରେଳ ଷ୍ଟେସନକୁ ଯାଇ ସେଠି ରେଳଷ୍ଟେସନର କାଲନାର୍ ହୋଟେଲରେ ପାଉଁରୁଟି, ଚା' ଓ ଆମ୍‌ଲେଟ୍ ଖାଉ । ଗାଡ଼ିଟିର ଭଡ଼ା ଛ'ଅଣା । ଚା' ଜଳଖିଆ ମିଶି ଆଠଅଣା ପଡ଼େ ।

ଜେଲଖାନାରୁ ରେଳଷ୍ଟେସନକୁ ଯିବାବାଟ ଦୋଳମୁଣ୍ଡାଇଠାରୁ ବକ୍ସିବଜାରା ରାସ୍ତା ଦୁଇପାଖର ଖାଲୁଆ ଜମିରେ ଲୋକେ ପରିବାଚାଷ କରନ୍ତି । ବହୁତ କୋବି, ମୂଳା ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ଫସଲ ଦେଖି ବଡ଼ ଆନନ୍ଦ ଲାଗେ ।

କିଛିବାଟ ଆଗକୁ ଗଲେ ବାଁ ହାତି ଗୋଟିଏ ଛୋଟ ଚାଳଘର ପଡ଼େ, ଏ ଘରଟିରେ ଦେଶୀମଦ ବିକ୍ରିହୁଏ । ସାଧାରଣତଃ ବେଳ ବୁଡ଼ିଲେ ବକ୍ସିବଜାରି ରାସ୍ତାରେ ଲୋକେ ଯାତାୟତ କରିବାକୁ ଭୟକରନ୍ତି । ରଣୀହାଟ ଛକଠାରୁ ରେଳଷ୍ଟେସନ ଯିବା ବାଟର ପୋଲ ଉପରେ ସଡ଼କର ଦୁଇପ ଖକୁ ମାଡ଼ି ପଡ଼ିଥାଏ ଆତୁଣ୍ଠୀ ଲଟା । ପଛପଟରେ ଯେଉଁଠି ଆଜି ରେଭେନ୍‌ସା କଲେଜ ମଝାଟେକି ଠିଆ ହୋଇଛି, ସେଇଟା ଥିଲା ପିଲାଙ୍କ ମଡ଼ାପୋଡ଼ା ପଡ଼ିଆ । ଏବାଟେ ରାତିରେ ରେଳଷ୍ଟେସନକୁ ଯା' ଆସ କରିବାକୁ ଡରମାଡ଼େ । ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ କୋଠାଟି ଥିଲା । ଏଇଠାରେ ଉତ୍କଳ ଇଉନିଭର୍‌ସିଟି ଅନୁକୂଳ ହୋଇ ବସିଲା, ପରେ ।

କିଲ୍ଲାପଡ଼ିଆ—ମୋର ଅଭ୍ୟାସଥିଲା, ଖୁବ୍ ସକାଳୁ ମହାନଦୀ କୂଳକୁ ବୁଲିଯିବାଟା । ଦିନେ ବଡ଼ିସକାଳୁ ମୋର ପୂଜ୍ୟପାଦ ଗୁରୁଦେବ ସ୍ୱର୍ଗତ କୁଞ୍ଜନାଥ ସାମନ୍ତରାୟଙ୍କ ସହିତ ବୁଲିଯିବାବେଳେ ଗୋଟିଏ ରଘିଆବାଘ ପୋଲିସ କଲୋନୀ ଆଡୁ କିଲ୍ଲାଖାଇର ତାହାଣପଟ ବିସ୍ତୀର୍ଣ୍ଣ ପଡ଼ିଆ ଭିତରୁ ଖାଇ ଆଡ଼କୁ ଦୌଡ଼ିଆସିବାର ଦେଖିଲୁଁ । ଲୋକଙ୍କ ହୋ' ହା'ରେ ରଘିଆ ଦୌଡ଼ି ଦୌଡ଼ି ଖାଇ ପାଣି ଭିତରେ ପଡ଼ି ସେପଟର କିଲ୍ଲାଭିତର ଆଡ଼କୁ ଉଠିବାକୁ ବହୁ ଚେଷ୍ଟାକଲା । ମାତ୍ର ସେତେବେଳକୁ ସେପାଖିରେ ଲୋକ ଜମାହୋଇ ତାକୁ ପାଣିରୁ ଉଠିବାକୁ ବାଧାଦେଲେ । ବାଘଟି ବିରସ ଖାଇ ପାଣିରେ ପ୍ରାୟ ଅଧଘଣ୍ଟାଏ କାଳବୁଡ଼ି, ଉଠି ମରିଗଲା । ଆଜିର ଏ ବିରଟ ବାରବାଟୀ ଷ୍ଟାଡ଼ିୟମର କଳ୍ପନା ମଧ୍ୟ ସେତେବେଳକୁ ନଥିଲା । ଯେ ୧୯୩୮/୩୯ର କଥା ।

ନାଲ ନର୍ଦ୍ଦମା—ବସ୍ତିକରରେ ମାଟିଖୋଳା ନାଳ । ମଇଳାସବୁ ବହି ଆସି ଦୁର୍ଗନ୍ଧ ହୁଏ । ପକ୍‌କାନାଳ ନଥିଲା । ପୁଣି କେତେକ ସ୍ଥାନରେ ନାଳକଡ଼ରେ କେତେକ ଲୋକ ହଗି ମୁତିବା ଦ୍ୱାରା ଆହୁରି କଦର୍ଯ୍ୟ ହୋଇଥାଏ । ଅଳ୍ପ କେତେକ ସାହି କଡ଼ରେ ମାଟି ଖୋଳା ହୋଇଥିବା ନାଳ ଟିକିଏ ଅବଶ୍ୟ ସାମାନ୍ୟ ଓସାରିଆ ଥିଲା ।

କନିକାଯୋଡ଼ି—କନିକା ରଜା ସାହେବଙ୍କର ଗୋଟିଏ ଯୋଡ଼ି ଘୋଡ଼ା ସବାରିଗାଡ଼ି ଥିଲା । ଘୋଡ଼ା ଦୁଇଟି ଦେଖିବାକୁ ସମାନ ସମାନ ଭଳି, ଭାରି ସୁନ୍ଦର । ଗାଡ଼ି ଉପରେ ପୋଷାକ ପିନ୍ଧା କୋଚମ୍ୟାନ୍ ଓ ପଛପଟେ ଝାଡ଼ନଧରି ଦୁଇଜଣ ଲୋକ ଠିଆହୋଇ ଥାଆନ୍ତି । ତାଙ୍କୁ ସୋଫାର୍ କହୁଥିଲେ । ସେମାନେ 'ଯା' ବଗଲ ଯାବଗଲ ଡାକ ଦେଉଥା'ନ୍ତି ଗାଡ଼ି ଦୌଡ଼େ । ଲୋକେ ଏ ଡାକ ଶୁଣି ଗାଡ଼ି ଦେଖିବାକୁ ଦାଣ୍ଡ ଦୁଆରକୁ ବାହାରି ଆସନ୍ତି । ଘୋଡ଼ା ଦୁଇଟିଙ୍କୁ 'କନିକାଯୋଡ଼ି' ବୋଲି କୁହାଯାଉଥିଲା । କନିକାକୋଠୀ ପାଖରୁ ଚାନ୍ଦନୀଚୌକ, ନିମଚଉଡ଼ି, ଚଉଧୁରୀବଜାର, ବଜ୍ରିବଜାର, ରଣୀହାଟ, ମଙ୍ଗଳାବାଗ ବାଟେ ଗାଡ଼ି ରେଳ ଷ୍ଟେସନକୁ ଯିବାବେଳେ ବାଟରେ ଅନେକ ସ୍ଥାନରେ ଲୋକମାନେ ଭୁଣ୍ଡହୋଇ ଗାଡ଼ି ଦେଖି ଖୁସି ହୁଅନ୍ତି । ଏ ଗାଡ଼ିଟି ସେବେଳର ଘୋଡ଼ାଗାଡ଼ି ଭିତରେ ବଡ଼ ସରସ ଥିଲା ।

ମିଃ ଦାସ—କଟକରେ ଆଉ ଗୋଟିଏ ବିଶେଷ ଦୃଶ୍ୟ ଦେଖାଯାଉଥିଲା । ପ୍ରତିଦିନ ସକାଳେ ମଧୁବାବୁ ତାଙ୍କ କୋଠୀରୁ ବାହାରି ସହର ବୁଲି ଯାଉଥିଲେ । ତାଙ୍କର ଘୋଡ଼ା ଗାଡ଼ିଟିଏ ଥିଲା । ମୁଣ୍ଡରେ ଟୋପି, ହାତରେ ଖଣ୍ଡେ ବଙ୍କୁଲି ବାଡ଼ି ଧରି ମିଃ ଦାସ ଆଗେ ଆଗେ ଚାଲନ୍ତି, ଗାଡ଼ି ତାଙ୍କ

ପଛେ ପଛେ ଧାଇଁରେ ଧାଇଁରେ ଯିବେ । ମିଃ ଦାସଙ୍କ ପରି ନାମଜାଦା ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ଗାଡ଼ିରେ ନ ବସି ଏଭଳି ବୁଲି ବୁଲି ଯିବା ଦୃଶ୍ୟ ଦେଖଣାହାରୀଏ କୌତୁହଳରେ ଦେଖୁଥିଲେ ।

ଅଳୁଅ—ଅନ୍ଧାର ରାତିରେ ବାଟଘାଟରେ ଯିବା ଆସିବାକୁ ସାବଧାନ ହେବାକୁ ପଡ଼େ । ଦୂର ଦୂରରେ ରାସ୍ତା କଡ଼ରେ ଗୋଟିଏ ଗୋଟିଏ ଖୁଣ୍ଟରେ ଚାରିପାଖେ କାଚଡିଆ ଅଳ୍ପ ଉଚ୍ଚ ବାକ୍ସ ଭଳି ଖୋଳରେ ମିଞ୍ଜି ମିଞ୍ଜି ହୋଇ କିରାସିନୀ ଡିବି ଅଳୁଅ ଜଳୁଥାଏ । ଲୋକେ କହିଲା ଭଳି ଠିକ "ନଈ କହିଲି ଠିଆଁଙ୍କ ଘର" ପରି ଏ ଅଳୁଅ ବାଟ ବତାଉଥିଲା । ସବୁଆଡ଼େ ଏକ ଅବସ୍ଥା ।

ପାଣି—ଦୁଇପଟେ ନଈ ଛଡ଼ା ସହରରେ ପାନ ଲାଗି କେତେଗୁଡ଼ିଏ ତବକା ଓ ଗାଡ଼ିଆ ଥିଲା । ଗୋରୁ, ଖାଇ ଏବଂ ମଣିଷଙ୍କ ଗାଧୁଆ ଓ ଲୁଗାଧୁଆ ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ସବୁ ପ୍ରାୟ ସେଇଠି ହୁଏ । କାଠଯୋଡ଼ିରେ ତ ସବୁଦିନେ ପାଣି ନ ଥାଏ । ତା ଛଡ଼ା ନଈରୁ ଦୂର ସାଇମାନଙ୍କରେ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ପୁରୁଷ ଏତେ ବାଟ ଯିବା ସୁବିଧାଜନକ ମନେ କରନ୍ତି ନାହିଁ ।

ପବନ—କଚେରୀ ଓ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟମାନଙ୍କରେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କାଳରେ ହାତଟଣା ପଙ୍ଖା ଲାଗିଥାଏ । ଘରକୁ ଆସିଲେ ହାତ ପଙ୍ଖାହିଁ ଭରସା ।

ହୋଟେଲ—ମୋ' ଦେଖିବାରେ ଚଉଧୁରୀବଜାରରେ ଗୋଟିଏ ଘରଡରେ (ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ଗୌରୀଶଙ୍କର ପାର୍କ ସାମନାରେ ଯେଉଁଠି ପେଟ୍ରୋଲ ବିକା ହେଉଛି) ଆଉ ଛକ ଉପରେ ଗୋଟି ଏ ହୋଟେଲ ଥିଲା । ବୋଧହୁଏ ଦୋ'ମହଲା । ୧୯୪୦ ବେଳକୁ ରାଣୀହାଟ ପଟେ ଗୋଟିଏ ଦୁଇଟି ହୋଟେଲ ଦେଖାଗଲା । କେତେକ ଜାଗାରେ ଚା' ଦୋକାନ ମଧ୍ୟ ଖୋଲିଲା ।

ସିନେମା – ୧୯୩୦ ବେଳକୁ ହଳମୂକ ସିନେମା କଟକରେ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହେଲା । (ଆଜି ଯେଉଁଠି ଅନ୍ନପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣା ଥିଏଟର ଅଛି ।) ଏହା ସବାକ୍ ଚଳଚ୍ଚିତ୍ର ନୁହେଁ । ଏତେବେଳକୁ ଚଉଧୁରୀବଜାର ଚନ୍ଦନ ପୋଖରୀ ପୋତା ହୋଇ "ଗ୍ରେମେରିଆ" ସିନେମା କୋମ୍ପାନୀ କଟକରେ ଭିଡ଼ ଜମାଉଥାଏ । ଏହା ମଧ୍ୟ କଥାକୁହା ସିନେମା ନୁହେଁ । ସେଉଠୁ କ୍ୟାପିଟାଲ ଓ ତହିଁ ପରେ ପରେ ପ୍ରଭାତ ସିନେମା ଖୋଲିଲା ।

ଥିଏଟର—ନାଟ୍ୟନେଟିକ, ଉଷା ଓ ବାସନ୍ତୀ ପ୍ରଭୃତି ସୌଖୀନ ଥିଏଟର ଦଳ ବହୁଦିନରୁ କଟକରେ ମଧ୍ୟେ ମଧ୍ୟେ ନାଟକମାନ ମଞ୍ଚସ୍ଥ କରୁଥିଲେ । ଏଗୁଡ଼ିକ ପ୍ରାୟ ବଙ୍ଗଳା ନାଟକର ଅନୁବାଦ । ଅବଶ୍ୟ ବହୁବର୍ଷ ପୂର୍ବେ କାଞ୍ଚିକାବେରୀ ଓ ରାମ ବନବାସ ପ୍ରଭୃତି କେତୋଟି ନାଟକ କଟକରେ ମଞ୍ଚସ୍ଥ ହେବାର ମୁଁ ଶୁଣିଛି । ଏହାଛଡ଼ା ମିଃ ଦାସଙ୍କ ହତା ଭିତରେ ଇଂରାଜୀ ନାଟକ ଅଭିନୀତ ହୋଇଥିବାର ଶୁଣିଛି ।

ରେଭେନସାକଲେଜରେ ଛାତ୍ରମାନେ ବର୍ଷକେ ପ୍ରାୟ ଥରେ ନାଟକ ଅଭିନୟ ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନ କରୁଥିଲେ ।

୧୯୩୦ ବେଳକୁ ମୋର ଗୁପ ଦଳ ଥିଲା । ୧୯୩୯ରେ ମୁଁ "ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଥିଏଟର୍ସ" ନାମରେ ଗୋଟିଏ ଦଳ ଗଢ଼ି, ନାରୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ନେଇ ପ୍ରଥମେ ସାମାଜିକ ନାଟକ ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶିତ କରାଇଲି । ମଞ୍ଚ ଥିଲା ବାଙ୍କାବଜାରରେ ୧୯୫୦ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ । ପ୍ରଥମେ ପେଟ୍ରୋଲ ଓ ପଞ୍ଚଲାଇଟ୍ ଏବଂ ପରେ ୧୯୪୧ ବେଳକୁ ବିଜୁଳିବତୀ ଲାଗିଲା ମଞ୍ଚରେ ।

ବିଜୁଳିବତୀ—ଗୋଟିଏ କୋମ୍ପାନୀ ଦ୍ୱାରା ପ୍ରଥମେ କଟକ ସହରରେ ବିଜୁଳି ଆଲୁଅ ପ୍ରବର୍ତ୍ତିତ ହେଲା । ଏଥର କଟକ ସହର ରୂପ ଟିକିଏ ବଦଳିଗଲା । ଚାରିଆଡ଼େ ବିଜୁଳି ଆଲୁଅ ଦେଖାଗଲା । ଘରେ ଘରେ ବିଜୁଳି ପଙ୍ଖା । ବହୁତ ଦୋକାନ ବଜାର ଓ ହୋଟେଲରେ ବିଜୁଳିବତୀ ଜଳିଲା । ଧୂଳି ରାସ୍ତା ପ୍ରାୟ ଗଳିକନ୍ଦି ଛଡ଼ା ଆଉ କେଉଁଠି ରହିଲା ନାହିଁ ।

କଟକ ରେଡ଼ିଓ—୧୯୪୭/୪୮ରେ କଲିକତାରୁ ଯତିନ୍ ଦାସ ପ୍ରଭୃତି କେତେଜଣ ଭଦ୍ରଲୋକ ପ୍ରଥମେ ଆସି ମୋ' ଘରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିଲେ । ମଧୁପୁର କୋଠୀରେ କଟକ ରେଡ଼ିଓ ଷ୍ଟେସନ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହେବା କଥା କହିଲେ । ମୁଁ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ରହିବା ଖାଇବାର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କରି ସବୁମତେ ସାହାଯ୍ୟ ଦେଲି ।

ମୋର ମନେ ଅଛି କଟକ ସହରକୁ ପ୍ରାୟ ୧୯୪୫ରେ ତିନିଖଣ୍ଡ ସାଇକଲ ରିକ୍ସା ମୁଁ, ଚକ୍ରଧର ମିଶ୍ରେ ଓ ହରିହର ମହାପାତ୍ରେ ପ୍ରଥମେ ଆଣିଲୁ । ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ହଜାର ହଜାର ସାଇକେଲ ରିକ୍ସା ପିଚୁ ରାସ୍ତାରେ ଦିନରାତି ଚାଲିଛି । ଏବେ କାର୍, ବସ୍, ସାଇକଲ ରିକ୍ସା ଢେର ବେଶି ଚଳିଲାଣି, ଟାଉନରେ । ତ' ଛଡ଼ା ଜନ୍ ଚଳାଚଳ ହେତୁ ନାନା ସ୍ଥାନରୁ ଲୋକମାନେ କଟକ ଯିବା ଆସିବା କରୁଛନ୍ତି ବିଭିନ୍ନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟରେ ।

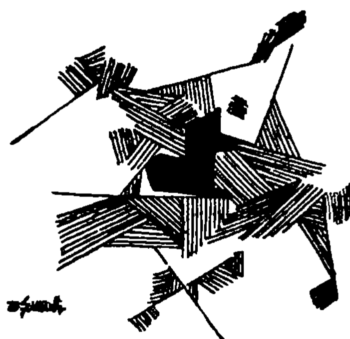
ଜନସଂଖ୍ୟା ବଢ଼ିଲା ସିନା, କଟକର ପରିସର ତ ଯାହାଥିଲା—ସେଇଆ ଅଛି । ଟାଉନର ଯାହାକିଛି ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ ଘଟିଛି, ସେଥିରେ ଲୋକ ଚଳାଚଳ ପାଇଁ ସେଭଳି ବିସ୍ତୃତ ରାସ୍ତା ନାହିଁ । ନାଳ, ଜଳନାଳ ନାହିଁ । ଆମ ଟାଉନଟି ଅଖିଦୁରୁସିଆ ହୋଇଛି ବୋଲି କହି ହେବନାହିଁ । ଏସବୁ ପାଇଁ ଆମେ ଚିନ୍ତା ନ କଲେ, ସହରକୁ ସୁନ୍ଦର, ନିର୍ମଳ ଓ ରୁଚିକର କରି ଗଢ଼ିବାର ପ୍ରଯତ୍ନରେ ବାଧା ଉପୁଜିବ ।

ଆଜିର କଟକ—ମୁଁ ୬୦/୬୫ ବର୍ଷର କଟକ ଦେଖି ଆସିଛି । ସେ କଥା ଛାଡ଼ି ଦିଆଯାଉ । ଆଜିର କଟକ ସହରରେ ଦେଖୁଛି—ଦୋକାନବଜାର ବଢ଼ିଛି । କୋଠାବାଡ଼ି ବଢ଼ିଛି । କାରବାର ବଢ଼ିଛି । ହୋଟେଲ, ଚା' ଦୋକାନ, ସିନେମାଘର, ଶିକ୍ଷାଳୟ, ପାଠାଗାର, ମୋଟର, ରିକ୍ସା ଲୋକଙ୍କର ଗହଳ ଚହଳ ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ସବୁ ବଢ଼ିଛି । କାରଣ କଅଣ ? ଏକଥା ଭାବିଲା ବେଳକୁ ବେଶି ନୁହେଁ, ମାତ୍ର ୪୦/୪୫ ବର୍ଷ ତଳର କଟକ କଥା ଆଖି ଆଗରେ ନାଚି ଉଠେ । ସେତେ-ବେଳେ ଲୋକସଂଖ୍ୟା ଥିଲା ପ୍ରାୟ ପଚାଶ ହଜାର ବା ତହିଁରୁ କିଛି ବେଶୀ । ତେଣୁ ଉପରେ ଯାହା ଯାହା କହିଲି, ସେସବୁ ଲୋକଙ୍କ ଚାହିଦା ମୁତାବକ ନ ବଢ଼ିବ କେମିତି ?

ବହୁତ କଥା ତ ବିଚାରିବାର ଅଛି, ଥିଲା କଅଣ ସେ କଥା ଭାଳି ବସିଲେ ଚଳିବ ନାହିଁ । ଏଇନେ କାଳକୁ ଅନାଇ ସମୂହ ଉନ୍ନତି ଦୃଷ୍ଟିରୁ ଅଣ୍ଟାଭିଡ଼ି ଏ ଦିଗରେ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଚେଷ୍ଟାକୁ ସଫଳ କରିବାପାଇଁ ଲାଗି ପଡ଼ିବା ଉଚିତ ।

ଜଣକର ସ୍ୱାର୍ଥକୁ ନ ଚାହିଁ, ଗଣଙ୍କର ସ୍ୱାର୍ଥପ୍ରତି ଦୃଷ୍ଟି ଦେବା ସବୁରି କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ ।

କଟକର ସେ ବାଉନ ବଜାର—ତେପନ ଗଳି ଲକ୍ଷ ଲକ୍ଷ ଲୋକଙ୍କୁ କୋଳରେ ଧରି ଖେଳାଉ । "ସର୍ବେ ଭବନ୍ତୁ ସୁଖୀନୋ ।"



ଏମନ୍ତ ଏ ନଗ୍ର କଟକ

ମହାପାତ୍ର ନୀଳମଣି ସାହୁ
ସମ୍ପାଦକ, ପ୍ରସଙ୍ଗ (ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ ବିଭାଗ) ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର

"ବପଲଣବ—ଟଙ୍କପଠବ—କଟକସହର—ବଡ଼ ମହାନଦୀ—ଟଙ୍କ ପଠବତ ପଠବ—ନହଳ ମରବ ।"

ନାଁ—"ଛକନାରଣଭରଙ୍ଗ"ରୁ ଏ ପଦଟି ଉଦ୍ଧୃତ ହୋଇନାହିଁ । ସର୍ବସାଧାରଣଙ୍କ ତଳେ କୁଆଡ଼େ ମଫସଲରୁ ଆସି କଟକରେ ପଢୁଥିବା ପିଲାଟିଏ ତା' ବାପା ପାଖକୁ ଏ ଧାଡ଼ିକି ଚିଠି ଲେଖିଥିଲା । ଶବ୍ଦ ଗୁଡ଼ିକ କିନ୍ତୁ ମାତ୍ରା ବା ଫଳା ବିହୀନ । ପିଲାଟି ହୁଏତ ବ ଆକାରରେ ବା ଏବଂ ଗ ଦୀର୍ଘକାର ରି ଆଦି ଫଳା ଶିଖି ନ ଥିଲା । କିନ୍ତୁ ଏଥିରୁ ସେ ପିଲାଟି କେଉଁଠି କେଉଁଥିଏ ପଢୁଥିଲା—ତାହା ମଧ୍ୟ ଏଥିରୁ ବୁଝିବାର ଉପାୟ ନାହିଁ । କିମ୍ବା ସତକୁ ସତ ଏମିତି ଘଟଣା ଘଟିଥିଲା କି ନାହିଁ— ସେ ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧେ ମଧ୍ୟ କଥାକାରମାନେ ଉଦାସୀନ । କିନ୍ତୁ ପିଲାଦିନୁ ଏମିତି କଥାଟି ଶୁଣି ଆମେ ହସି ଆସିଛୁ ଓ ଆମ ପିଲାମାନେ ବି ହସି ଲାଗିଛନ୍ତି । ତେବେ କଟକ ସହର ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ଏ ଲେଖାଟିରୁ କିଛି ତଥ୍ୟ ନ ମିଳିଲେ ବି କିଛି ବ୍ୟଞ୍ଜନା ବା ଭାବକଳ୍ପ ମିଳିପାରେ ନିଶ୍ଚୟ । ଏହା ସଙ୍ଗେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଆଉ ଗୋଟିଏ ପଦ ଆମ କାନରେ ପଡ଼େ—କଟକନଗର, ଧବଳ ଟଗର । କେବଳ ପଦ ପଢ଼ୁଛି ବୋଲି ନୁହେଁ—ଶୁଭ୍ର ସୁନ୍ଦର ସତେଜ ଟଗର ଫୁଲଟି ସଙ୍ଗେ କଟକ ସହରର ଶ୍ରୀ ସମ୍ପର୍କ ଥିଲା କୁଆଡ଼େ ଆଗେ—ଆମ ପିଲାଦିନେ ଓ ଆମ ବାପା ମଉସାଙ୍କ ପିଲାଦିନେ ।

କଟକ ଶବ୍ଦର ଅର୍ଥ ଦୁର୍ଗ । ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଗଜପତି ମହାରାଜାମାନଙ୍କର ଏଠି ଦୁର୍ଗ ଥିଲା ଆଗେ । ପ୍ରାୟ ସାତଆଠ କିଲୋ ମିଟର ବ୍ୟାସାର୍ଦ୍ଧର ଏହି ଅଞ୍ଚଳଟିର ଚାରିପଟେ ଦୁଇଟି ନଦୀ ଏହାର ଗଡ଼ଖାଇ ସଦୃଶ ରହିଛନ୍ତି । ତେଣୁ ବୋଧହୁଏ—ସମଗ୍ର ସହରଟିକୁ ଗୋଟିଏ ଦୁର୍ଗ ବୋଲି ଅଭିହିତ କରାଯାଇଛି ।

ବୋଧହୁଏ ୧୯୪୦ ମସିହା ହେବ । ସେତେବେଳେ ମାଇନର ପରୀକ୍ଷା ଦେବାଲାଗି କଟକ ଆସିଥିଲୁ । ଆମ ଗାଁରୁ ଛୟାଳିଶି କିଲୋମିଟର ଦୂର । କାଦୁଅ ରାସ୍ତା । ବଳଦଗାଡ଼ିରେ ଉଠି ପଡ଼ି ଆସିଲୁ । ବାଟରେ ତିନିଥର ଗୋଟେଇ କରି ଖାଇଲୁ । କଣ୍ଠିକ ସ୍ନାନ—କାଠଯୋଡ଼ୀରେ ପାଣିଥାଏ । ମୁକାମ ସହରରେ ବାଡ଼ି ପିଟିଲା । ନଈ ଅବପଟେ ଧଳା ଫରଫର ଟଗର ଫୁଲର ମାଳା ପରି ଧାଡ଼ି ଧାଡ଼ି କୋଠା । ଜନ୍ମରୁ ଏ ଦୃଶ୍ୟ ଦେଖି ନଥିଲି । ଅସ୍ମମାନଙ୍କ ପାଖକୁ ଆସି ଆମର ସାହିତ୍ୟ ଓ ଗଣିତ ଶିକ୍ଷକ ପୂଜ୍ୟପାଦ ୰ ବଳଭଦ୍ର ନାୟକ କହିଲେ ଭାବଗଦ୍‌ଗଦ୍ କଣ୍ଠରେ—ଦେଖରେ ପିଲାଏ ଦେଖ । "କାଠଯୋଡ଼ୀ ନଦୀତଟବର୍ତ୍ତୀ କଟକନଗରୀ ସୌଧ କିରୀଟିନୀ ।" ପଣ୍ଡିତଙ୍କ ମୁଖ-ନିଃସୃତ

ଏ କାବ୍ୟଟି ଆମର ମନକୁ କଳ୍ପନା ରଞ୍ଜିତ କରିଦେଲା । ଆମକୁ ଲାଗିଲା—ଏ କଟକ ଇନ୍ଦ୍ରପୁରୀ ସ୍ୱର୍ଗ ? ଆମର ମନେ ପଡ଼ିଗଲା ସାହିତ୍ୟ ପ୍ରସଙ୍ଗରୁ ସଦ୍ୟ ପଠିତ ମଧୁ ସ୍ତବକ କବିତାରୁ ପଦେ—

ଏକେତ ଅଯୋଧ୍ୟା ନଗରୀ ସ୍ୱଭା

ଦେବତାଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟେ ଯେସନ ଇନ୍ଦ୍ରାଣୀ

ହରି ବକ୍ଷେ ଯଥା ରମା ସୁନ୍ଦରୀ

ଧରଣୀର ଅଙ୍କେ ରମ୍ୟ ନଗରୀ ସେ

—ବିରଚିତ ଲାକ୍ଷାରଙ୍ଗେ ସେ

ଶ୍ୱେତନ କୌମୁଦୀ ଯାହାର ପ୍ରତିମା ଶେଖର

ଶୋଣ ତରଙ୍ଗେ ସେ—

ସେହିଦିନୁଁ କଟକର ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର ଚିତ୍ର ମନ ଭିତରେ ଆଙ୍କି ହୋଇଯାଇଛି । ସେ ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ରଚିତ୍ର କଟକର ଯଥାର୍ଥ ଆତ୍ମିକ ଛବି । ସେଥର କଟକରେ ଅଠଦିନ ରହିଥିଲୁ । ପଣ୍ଡିତେ ଆମକୁ ଅଡ଼ଙ୍ଗ ପାଖରେ ବୁଲି ବୁଲି କୁଆଡ଼େ ଦେଖାଇଥିଲେ । ଶାରଦୀୟ ନାମା ନବମୀ ରଥରେ ଶିଶୁ ପନ୍ଦରୁ ଲାଗର ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱ- ରିଙ୍କୁ ପ୍ରେରଣା ପାଇ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଖଣ୍ଡପଡ଼ି ସମାଜ ମଣ୍ଡଳରେଖା ଯୋଡ଼ି ଏମ ପଣ୍ଡିତଙ୍କ ତିଆରି କରିଥିଲେ— ତାକୁ ଦେଖିସାରି ପଣ୍ଡିତେ ଆମକୁ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ଦର୍ଶନୀୟ ସବୁ ଦେଖାଇଥିଲେ । ପ୍ରଥମେ ରେଭେନ୍ସାକଲେଜ—ଗୈରିକଚେତନା ଉତ୍କଳ ଗୌରବଙ୍କର ସାଧନା ପୀଠ—ଜ୍ଞାନ ବିଜ୍ଞାନର ମହାମନ୍ଦିର—ସେଇଠି ଶୁଣିଥିଲୁ—ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ନଅଙ୍କ ଦୁର୍ଭିକ୍ଷ କଥା—ତତ୍କାଳୀନ କମିଶନର ରେଭେନ୍ସା ସାହେବଙ୍କ କଥା—ଆଉ ଦାରିଦ୍ର୍ୟ ନା ଅଶେ ଅଜ୍ଞାନ ? ପ୍ରକୃତରେ ସବୁ ଅନର୍ଥର ମୂଳରେ ଏହି ଅଜ୍ଞାନ । ମହାଜ୍ଞାନକଭନ୍ତ ଓଡ଼ିଆଏ ଯୋଉଦିନୁଁ ଜ୍ଞାନସାଧନା ଛାଡ଼ିଲେ ସେହିଦିନୁ ଦାରିଦ୍ର୍ୟ ଆଉ ଅସହାୟତା ହେଲା ତାଙ୍କର ନିତ୍ୟ ସହଚର । ସେହି ରେଭେନ୍ସାକଲେଜ ପ୍ରାଙ୍ଗଣରେ ଠିଆ କରାଇ ପଣ୍ଡିତେ ବୁଝାଇଥିଲେ କେତେ କଥା—କେତେ କଥା—ନଅଙ୍କ ଭିତରୁ କୋଳୁ ଆଣିଲେ—ତାକୁ କେମିତି—ରେଭେନ୍ସାକଲେଜ—ଦୁଇଟି ସ୍ରୋତ ବହିଥିଲା ଓଡ଼ିଶାରେ ଜାଗର ଆଉ ଜ୍ଞାନ ବିଜ୍ଞାନର । ତାଙ୍କ ମୁଖରେ ସେହି ପୁଣ୍ୟଶ୍ଳୋକମାନଙ୍କ ସୁନାମ ଶୁଣିଥିଲୁ—ମଧୁବାବୁଙ୍କର, ଉତ୍କଳମଣି ଗୋପବନ୍ଧୁ, ଶ୍ରୀ ରାମଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ଭଞ୍ଜଦେଓ, ଗୋଲୋକବିହାରୀ, ପଣ୍ଡିତ ନୀଳକଣ୍ଠ, ଆଚାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ହରିହର; ରେଭେନ୍ସା ଶିକ୍ଷାକେନ୍ଦ୍ର ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ, ପ୍ୟାରୀମୋହନ, ଗୌରୀଶଙ୍କର, ରାମଶଙ୍କର, ମଧୁସୂଦନ ଦାସ, ବିଶ୍ୱନାଥ କର, ବ୍ୟାସକବି ଫକୀରମୋହନ, କବିବର ରାଧାନାଥ, ଭକ୍ତକବି ମଧୁସୂଦନ, ପଲ୍ଲୀକବି ନନ୍ଦକିଶୋର, ଗୋପାଳଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ପ୍ରହରାଜ । ପୁଣି ଶୁଣିଥିଲୁ—ପରିଜା ସାହେବ, ଅଧ୍ୟାପକ ଅର୍ତ୍ତବଲ୍ଲଭ, ଭଦ୍ରାକର ପତି, ତ୍ରିପାଠୀ ସାହେବ, ନାରଣ ମିଶ୍ର, ଗୋଦାବରୀଶ, ପଠାଣୀ ସାମନ୍ତ ଭବ୍ୟାଣି ଭବ୍ୟାଣି କେତେକେତେ ଜ୍ଞାନଭକ୍ତ ସୁବିଖ୍ୟାତ ମୁଣ୍ଡଆଳ ଓଡ଼ିଆମାନଙ୍କ କଥା—ଯେଉଁମାନଙ୍କ ନାମ କଟକର ସ୍ମୃତି ସହ ସ୍ମୃତି ହୋଇଯାଇଛି ଚିରକାଳ । ତା' ପରେ ଆମେ ଦେଖିଥିଲୁ—ମହାନଦୀ—କଟକର ଗଙ୍ଗା—ଗଡ଼- ଗଡ଼ିଆ ଘାଟ—ବାଲିଯାତ୍ରା ପଡ଼ିଆ—ପ୍ରେମାବତାର ଗୌରାଙ୍ଗ ମହାପ୍ରଭୁ ଏଇଠି ମହାନଦୀ ପାରିହୋଇ ଏଇ ଘାଟରେ କଟକ ପ୍ରବେଶ କରିଥିଲେ । ଏଠାରୁ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ସାଧବମାନେ ପାଲଟଣା ବୋଇତ ନେଇ ସାତସମୁଦ୍ର ତେରନଈ ପାରିହୋଇ ଯାଉଥିଲେ ବାଣିଜ୍ୟ କରି ଦେଶ ବିଦେଶକୁ— ଜାଭା, ବୋର୍ଣ୍ଣିଓ, ସୁମାତ୍ରା, ବାଲି, ଲଙ୍କା । ସେଇ ସ୍ମୃତିକୁ ସ୍ମରଣ କରି ଆଜିଯାଏ କାର୍ତ୍ତିକ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣିମାକୁ ଏଠି ଲାଗେ ଜାତ ଉତ୍ସବ ଦୃଶ୍ୟ—ବାଲିଯାତ୍ରା ମେଳା ଦୃଶ୍ୟ । ମୁଁ ନୂଆଁ ବେଳ ପାଠରେ ପଢ଼ିଥାଉ କରିଥିଲୁ—ବୃତ୍ୟ ବୃତ୍ୟ ହେ କରିଥିଲୁ—ସେଇଠି ଦେଖି ସେ ପଡ଼ନ୍ତେ ଶିହରୁଥିଲୁ । ଆଉ ମଧ୍ୟ ସେଠି ଠିଆ ହେଲେ—ମାନସିଂଙ୍କ ମହାନଦୀରେ ଜ୍ୟୋତ୍ସ୍ନା ବିହାର କରିବାର ଧାଡ଼ିଏ ମନେ ପଡ଼ିଯାଏ—

ଉହରେ ନାଗରୀ ଦଲେ ବିହ ଏଠି କରା

ମଣ୍ଡା ମୋ ରଙ୍ଗ ର ପୁତ ସୋପାନ ପ୍ରାନ୍ତରେ

ଠିଏଁ ଉପମାର୍ଜ ପ୍ରାନ୍ତେ ନୃତ୍ୟ ନୃତ୍ୟ କରି ।

ତା'ରି ପାଖେ ପାଖେ ବାରବାଟୀ ଦୁର୍ଗ । କିଶୋର ଶିଷ୍ୟ ବେଷ୍ଟିତ ଗୁରୁଦେବ ପଣ୍ଡିତ ମହାଶୟ ବାରବାଟୀର ଭଗ୍ନ ତୋରଣ ଉପରେ ମୁଷ୍ଟିଆମାରି ଭାବଗଦଗଦ କଣ୍ଠରେ ଗାଇ ଉଠିଲେ—

ଏହିପରି ବାରବାଟୀ
ରଚିଥିଲେ ଯହିଁ ଶ୍ରୀ ଅନଙ୍ଗଭୀମ ଦୁର୍ଗ ଏକ ପରିପାଟୀ ।
ଏଥି କୋଠା ନବତଳ
ନିରମିତ ହୋଇ ଦେଖାଉଥିଲାଟି ଓଡ଼ିଆଙ୍କ ବୁଦ୍ଧିବଳ ।

ମୋର ଭଳେ କିଶୋର ସାଙ୍ଗର ମନରେ କଣ ଭାବ ହେଲା କେଜାଣି ସେ ଗାଇ ଉଠିଲା—"ଅଇଲା କଳାପାହାଡ଼, ଭାଙ୍ଗିଲା ଲୁହା'ର ବାଡ଼, ପିଇଲା ମହାନଦୀ ପାଣି—ସୁବର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଥାଳିରେ ହେତା ପରଶିଲେ ମୁକୁନ୍ଦଦେବଙ୍କ ରାଣୀ । ପଣ୍ଡିତେ ତତ୍‌କ୍ଷଣାତ୍ ତାର ମୁହଁରେ ହାତ ଦେଇ—ସ୍ନେହ ଓ ଅଭିମାନ ଭରା କଣ୍ଠରେ କହିଲେ—ଆରେ ମୂର୍ଖ । ହେତା ନୁହଁ—ହାୟ, ହାୟ, ହାୟ । ବୀରଧିବୀରବର, ନବକୋଟି କର୍ଣ୍ଣାଟୋତ୍କଳ, କୁଳବର୍ଗେଶ୍ୱର, ଶ୍ରୀ ଶ୍ରୀ ଶ୍ରୀ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥଦେବଙ୍କ ସେବାକାରୀ, ଗଜପତି ମହାରାଜା ମୁକୁନ୍ଦଦେବଙ୍କ ରାଣୀ ହେତା ପରଷିବେ କିରେ ମୂର୍ଖ ? ପଣ୍ଡିତଙ୍କର ସମ୍ବେଦନଶୀଳ ଜାତୀୟତାବୋଧ ଉପରେ ଆଘାତ ଲାଗିଥିଲା । ସେ ଗାଇ ଉଠିଥିଲେ—

ଐତିହାସିକ ଏ ଦୁର୍ଗ ବାରବାଟୀ
ବୀର ରକ୍ତ ପିଣ୍ଡେ ଗଢ଼ା ଯାର ମାଟି—

ତା'ପରେ ବାରବାଟୀ ପରିପଟେ ଗଡ଼ଖାଇ, ସେଇଠୁ ଚଣ୍ଡୀମନ୍ଦିର—ଯୋଉଠି ହାଟକଗଉରୀ କଟକଚଣ୍ଡୀ ନାଗରୀ ବେଶେ ବିରାଜମାନ କରିଛନ୍ତି । ତା'ପରେ ତୁଳସୀପୁର, ମହାନଦୀ ଭିତରେ ଧବଳେଶ୍ୱର ପଠା, ନନ୍ଦିକେଶରୀ ପଠା—ନଈ ପଠାରେ ପଠାରେ କାଶତଣ୍ଡୀ ଫୁଲର ବଣ । ସେଇଠୁ ସତୀଚଉରା—ସେଇ ପୁଣ୍ୟପୀଠ ଶ୍ମଶାନ ଯୋଉଠି ଉତ୍କଳର ବହୁ ବରପୁତ୍ରଙ୍କର ସମାଧି ରହିଛି । ତା'ପରେ ଲାଲବାଗ—କଚେରୀ—କାଳୀଗଳି—ହିନ୍ଦୁ-ମୁସଲମାନଙ୍କ ସମାନ-ପୂଜାଭାଜନ—କଦମରସୁଲ । ସେଇଠୁ କାଠଯୋଡ଼ୀ ପଥରବନ୍ଧ—ବନ୍ଧ ଉପରେ କେତେ ଦେବଦେବୀଙ୍କ ମନ୍ଦିର—ରଘୁନାଥ-ଜୀଉଙ୍କ ମନ୍ଦିର, ଝାଞ୍ଜିରମଙ୍ଗଳା ଠାକୁରାଣୀ, ଶ୍ରୀ ରାଧାରମଣ ମଠ, କେତେ ଗୌଡ଼ୀୟ ବୈଷ୍ଣବ ମଠବାଡ଼ି,—ସେଇଠୁ କଲିଜିଏଟ ସ୍କୁଲ, ଏକାଡେମୀ, ସେମିନାରୀ, ରେଭେନ୍‌ସା ବାଳିକା ସ୍କୁଲ— । ମେଡ଼ିକାଲ ସ୍କୁଲ । ଛୋଟ ସହରଟିଏ ଥିଲା ସେତେବେଳେ—ମାତ୍ର ତା' ଭିତରେ ଥିଲା କେତେ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ, କେତେ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠାନ । ସେ ଦିନ ଆଉ ନାହିଁ ।

ଆଜି କଟକ କେତେ ବଢ଼ିଗଲାଣି । କଟକ ଆଜି ସିଟି ହେଲାଣି । ପ୍ରାୟ ଦୁଇଲକ୍ଷାଧିକ ଲୋକସଂଖ୍ୟା ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ । ଏଣେ ବଢ଼ିଗଲାଣି ନୂଆବଜାର ଆଡ଼େ ବିଦ୍ୟାଧରପୁର ଫାର୍ମ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ—ତେଣେ ତୁଳସୀପୁର ମଧ୍ୟ ହୋଇଉଠିଲାଣି ଲୋକାରଣ୍ୟ କୋଠାବାଡ଼ି ପରିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ । କେତେ କଲେଜ—ବଡ଼ ହାସପାତାଳ—କେତେ ସ୍କୁଲ—କେତେ ଡାକ୍ତରଖାନା—କେତେ ଦୋକାନବଜାର । ଯାହା କହନ୍ତି ନାହିଁ ? କଟକସହର—ବାଉନବଜାର—ତେପନ ଗଳି । କିଏ ବା ଗଣିଛି କେତୁଟା ବଜାର କେତୁଟା ଗଳି । ବାଉନ କି ବାଷଠୀ—ତେପନ କି ଛପନ । କେତୁଟା ବଜାର ନାଁ ମନେ ପଡ଼ି-ଯାଏ । ମେରିଆବଜାର—ଶହେବର୍ଷ ପୂର୍ବେ ଆଦିବାସୀମାନଙ୍କର ମେରିଆବଳୀ ପାଇଁ ଅଭିପ୍ରେତ ବହୁ ନିରାହ ନରନାରୀଙ୍କୁ ସେ କେଉଁ ହୃଦୟବାନ ସାହାବ ବଳୀ ମୁହଁରୁ ଉଦ୍ଧାର କରି ଏଠି ବସବାସ କରାଇଥିଲେ—ଛତ୍ରବଜାର—ନଅଙ୍କ ବେଳେ ଯୋଉଠି ବଦାନ୍ୟ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିମାନଙ୍କ ଉଦ୍ୟମରେ ଅହୋରାତ୍ର ବିପୁଳ ଅନ୍ନଛତ୍ରର ଭଣ୍ଡାର ଖୋଲିଥିଲା—ଚକରଗ୍ଭଦବଜାର—ରାଣୀହାଟ—ଯୋଉଠି ବାରବାଟୀର ମହାରାଣୀଙ୍କ ଉଦ୍ୟମରେ ବଡ଼ ଗୋଟାଏ ସୌଖୀନ ହାଟବ ସୁଥିଲା—ଦେଶବିଦେଶରୁ ସମବେତ ସାଧବମାନେ, ଜହୁରତମାନେ ବଣିକମାନେ, କେତେ ହୀରା, ନୀଳା ମେଡ଼ିମାଣିକ, ସୁନା ରୂପାର ଅଳଙ୍କାର, ବାସନକୁସନ, କେତେ ରକମର କେତେ ରଙ୍ଗର ଝାନବସ୍ତ୍ର, ମେଘଡମ୍ବୁର ଶାଢ଼ୀ

କଇଁଫୁଲିଆ ପାଟପଡନୀ, କେତେ କେତେ ବିଳାସବ୍ୟସନର ଦ୍ରବ୍ୟ ସମ୍ଭାର—ମାଲମସଲା ଜାଇଫଳ, ଗୁଜୁରାତି, ଅଳାଇଚ, କର୍ପୂରଦାନା, କବାବ୍‌ଚିନି, ରସକର୍ପୂର, ଜାଫ୍ରାନ, କେଶର, କୁଙ୍କୁମ, ମୃଗନାଭି କସ୍ତୁରୀ, କର୍ପୂର, ଦ୍ରାକ୍ଷା, କିସମିସ୍‌, ବାଦାମ, ଆଖ୍‌ରୋଟ୍‌, ନାସପାତି, କେତେ ଜାତିର ଅତର । ପୁଷ୍ପମଧୁ, ଅସାବଅର୍କ, ହାତୀଦାନ୍ତ—ପୁଣି ଗାଲିଚ୍ଚ – କମ୍ବଳ—ଶାଲ ଏମିତି ଏମିତି କେତେ ମହାର୍ଘ ଅମୂଲ୍ୟ ବସ୍ତୁମାନ କିଣା ବିକା ହେଉଥିଲା । କଟକର ରାଜପରିବାର—ସାମନ୍ତମାନେ ଅଭିଜାତମାନେ, ଧନୀକ ଓ ସୁଭଗମାନେ, ହୋମର ଓମ୍ରାମାନେ—ଚିହ୍ନିନା ଚିହ୍ନିନୀମାନେ ସେ ସବୁ ଦ୍ରବ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କର କଦର ବୁଝିଥିଲେ—ସେ ସବୁର ବ୍ୟବହାର ଜାଣିଥିଲେ । ପୁଣି ମଧ୍ୟ କିଣାବିକା ହେଉଥିଲା—ଘୋଡ଼ା, ଓଟ, ଗାଈ, ମୃଗ, ନାନା ଜାତିର ମୂଷା, ନାନା ବର୍ଣ୍ଣର ଚଢ଼େଇ ଶୁକ ଶାରୀ ବୁଲ୍‌ବୁଲ୍‌, ଜାତିଜାତିର ପାରା, ମୟୂର, କାକାତୁଆ, ହଂସ । ସେମିତି ମଧ୍ୟ ବିକାକିଣା ହେଉଥିଲା କେତେକେତେ ଦେଶର କେତେ କେତେ ମନୋହର ଦୁର୍ଲ୍ଲଭ ବସ୍ତୁମାନ । ଏମିତି ଏମିତି ଯେତେ ବଜାର, ଯେତେ ଗଳି, ସବୁ ପଛରେ ସେମିତି କେତେ ସୁନ୍ଦର ରୋମାଣ୍ଟିକ ଇତିହାସମାନ ଗ୍ରଥିତ । ସେ ସବୁର ଗବେଷଣା ପଣ୍ଡିତମାନେ ଏ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ କରିନାହାନ୍ତି । କଟକସହର କଲିକତା ପରି ଗତକାଲି ଗଢ଼ା ହୋଇନାହିଁ । ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ସାମରିକ ଇତିହାସ ସଙ୍ଗେ ଏହାର ଅଯଶ ବିଜଡ଼ିତ । କଟକକୁ ଗଢ଼ି ଆସିଛନ୍ତି ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଗଜପତିମାନେ ମୁସଲମାନ ଶାସକମାନେ । ମରହଟ୍ଟାମାନେ, ଇଂରେଜମାନେ—ଖାଲି ସେଇମାନେ ନୁହନ୍ତି ଏହାକୁ ମନପ୍ରାଣ ଦେଇ ମଧ୍ୟ ଗଢ଼ିଛନ୍ତି ଆଧୁନିକ ଉତ୍କଳର ନିର୍ମାତାମାନେ । କେତେ କେତେ ବୁଦ୍ଧିଆଳ ଚଟଚମଟକାରୀ ଓକିଲ, ମୁକ୍ତାର, ବାରିଷ୍ଟର—ଧନ୍ୱନ୍ତରୀ ସଦୃଶ କେତେ ଡାକ୍ତର ସର୍ଜନ କବିରାଜ—ଜ୍ଞାନବନ୍ତ ବାକ୍ୟବନ୍ତ କେତେ ଶିକ୍ଷକ ଅଧ୍ୟାପକ—ଧନବନ୍ତ ଦାନବନ୍ତ କେତେ ବଣିକ, ସାଧବମାନେ—ଶାସନକୁଶଳୀ ରାଜନୀତି ବିଶାରଦ କେତେ ନେତା ଆଉ ନେତ୍ରୀମାନେ । ସେମାନଙ୍କ ସାଙ୍ଗକୁ କେତେ କବି, ଲେଖକ, ନାଟ୍ୟକାର, ଅଭିନେତା ଅଭିନେତ୍ରୀ, ପୁସ୍ତକ ପ୍ରକାଶକ, ଚିତ୍ରଶିଳ୍ପୀ, ସମ୍ପାଦକ ଆଉ ସାମ୍ବାଦିକ—ସେଇଠୁ ପ୍ରେସବାଲାମାନେ, ସିଙ୍ଗକାରିଗରମାନେ, ସୁନାରୂପା ତାରକସୀ କାମର ବିଶ୍ୱପ୍ରସିଦ୍ଧ ଶିଳ୍ପୀ ବଣିଆମାନେ, କାଠ କାମରେ କୁଶଳହସ୍ତ ବଢ଼େଇମାନେ ଦୁର୍ଗା, କାଳୀ ମହାଦେବ, ଗଣେଶ, କାର୍ତ୍ତିକ, ସରସ୍ୱତୀ ଓ ଖୁଦୁରୁକୁଣୀ ଆଦି ଦେବାଦେବୀଙ୍କ ମୃଣ୍ମୟ ମୂର୍ତ୍ତି ଗଠନରେ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଖ୍ୟାତ ମୃତ୍ତିକା କାରିଗରମାନେ—ଜୋତା ଚଟି ନିର୍ମାତାମାନେ, ଏମାନଙ୍କ ସାଙ୍ଗକୁ ପୁଣି ପୋଡ଼େଇ-କଳସୀ ଗଢ଼ାଳୀମାନେ, ଜିଲିପି, ଅମୃତୀ, ରସଗୋଲା, ପାନତୋଆ, ଛେନାତର୍କାରୀ, ସିଙ୍ଗଡ଼ା, ନିମିକି, ଚପ୍‌ କଟଲେଟ୍‌, ପାଉଁରୁଟି, ନାନ୍‌କିନ୍‌, ବିସ୍କୁଟ ଆଦି ତିଆରି କଲାବାଲାମାନେ—ଖୁଆପେଡ଼ାବାଲାମାନେ ବିଡ଼ିବାଲା, ଚୁଡ଼ାଖୁବାଲା, ପାନବାଲା, ରିକ୍‌ସାବାଲା, ତେଲେଙ୍ଗିବାଜାବାଲା, ଢୋଲମହୁରୀବାଲା—ଡ୍ରମପାର୍ଟିବାଲା—ପରୀଖେଳବାଲା—ଗୀତଗାଇଲାବାଲା—ଅତରବାଲା—ଘୋଡ଼ାଗାଡ଼ିବାଲା, ବାଣତିଆରି କଲାବାଲା—ଯାତ୍ରା ଥିଏଟର ସାଜସରଞ୍ଜାମ ଓ ପୋଷାକ ତିଆରି କଲାବାଲା—ରେଡ଼ିଓବାଲା—ସାଇକେଲ ସ୍କୁଟର,—ମଟର ସଜାଡ଼ିବାବାଲା କୋଠା ତିଆରି କଲାବାଲା, ବସ୍ତିସଫା କଲାବାଲା, ଦାନ୍ତକାଠିବାଲା—ଚଢ଼େଇ ବିକାଳୀବାଲା ଓ ନାନା ପ୍ରକାର କଳକବ୍‌ଜା ସଜାଡ଼ିବାବାଲା—ଏମିତି ଏମିତି କେତେ ଧନ୍ଦାର, କେତେ ଫନ୍ଦାର, କେତେ ବୃତ୍ତି ଆଉ ପ୍ରବୃତ୍ତିର କେତେ କଳ କୌଶଳର କେତେ କେତେ ଗୁଣୀ ନିର୍ମାତାମାନେ—ସମସ୍ତେ ମିଳିମିଶି ତିଆରି କରିଛନ୍ତି ଏ କଟକ ସହରକୁ । ଏ କିଛି ଦିନ ଅଧକର କଥା ନୁହଁଇ—ଶତାବ୍ଦୀ ବର୍ଷ କେତୁଟାର କଥା ନୁହଁ ଶତାବ୍ଦୀର ବିଜ୍ଞାଣୀପଣ, ବୁନିଆଦୀପଣ, ସମ୍ଭ୍ରାନ୍ତପଣ, କୁଶଳୀପଣ, ରୁଚି, ନୀତି, କୃତି ଓ କୀର୍ତ୍ତି ଆଦିର ଗ୍ରହୀତାପଣ ଆଉ ଅର୍ଜିତାପଣରେ ଏ ସହର ତିଆରି ହୋଇଯାଇଛି ।

ଜମ୍ବୁଦ୍ୱୀପ, ଭରତଖଣ୍ଡ ଓଡ୍ର ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରମଣ୍ଡଳରେ ନାହିଁ ନଥିବା ଏ ନଗ୍ର । ମାଦଳାପାଞ୍ଜିରେ ବର୍ଣ୍ଣିତ ଅଛି ଗଙ୍ଗବଂଶର ସପ୍ତମ ନରପତି ବୀରାଧିବୀରବର ନବକୋଟି କର୍ଣ୍ଣାଟୋତ୍କଳ କଳବର୍ଗେଶ୍ୱର, ଭୂତଭୈରବ, ଦୁଃସହ ଦୁଃଶାସନ ଅତୁଳପରାକ୍ରମଶାଳୀ ସଂଗ୍ରାମ ସହସ୍ରବାହୁ ଧୂମକେତୁ ଗଜପତି ସମ୍ରାଟ ଶ୍ରୀଶ୍ରୀ ସପ୍ତମ ଅନଙ୍ଗଭୀମଦେବ କୁଆଡ଼େ ପ୍ରଥମେ ତଉଦ୍ୱାରରେ ରାଜଧାନୀ ସ୍ଥାପନ କରିଥିଲେ । ଦିନେ

ଜଣ ହେଲା ନା ସେହି ଗଜପତି ମାହାର୍ଯ୍ୟା ରାଜଧାନୀ ବାହାରକୁ ବିଜେ ହୋଇ ଘୋଡ଼ାରେ ବସି ନଗର ଭ୍ରମଣ କରୁଛନ୍ତି, ମହାନଦୀ ପାର ହୋଇ ତାର ଦକ୍ଷିଣ ପାର୍ଶ୍ୱରେ କୋଦଣ୍ଡାଦଣ୍ଡ ପାଟିର ବାରବାଟୀ ନାମକ ଗ୍ରାମରେ ଯୋଉ ବିଶ୍ୱେଶ୍ୱର ମନ୍ଦିର ତାରି ପାଖରେ ପହୁଞ୍ଚି ଦୁଃସହ ଦୁଃଶାସନ ଭୂତଭୈରବ ଗଜପତି ମାହାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଙ୍କ ଆଖିରେ ଗୋଟିଏ ନାହିଁ ନଥିବା ଦୃଶ୍ୟ ପଡ଼ିଗଲା । କିଅବଜଣ ଘେ ବ୍ୱା ଅଟକାଇ ମାହାର୍ଯ୍ୟା ଦେଖିଲେ ଗୋଟିଏ ବାଜପକ୍ଷୀକୁ ଶାମଳ (ବଗ) ମାଡ଼ି ବସିଛି । ଆଶ୍ଚର୍ଯ୍ୟ ହୋଇ, ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଚକିତରେ ରଜା ପଣ୍ଡିତମାନଙ୍କୁ ଡାକି ଏହାର ଉଦନ୍ତ ପୁଛା କଲେ—ହେ ହେ ପଣ୍ଡିତମାନେ ! ଏମନ୍ତ ଏ କି ଆଶ୍ଚର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଏ ନେତ୍ର ଏବେ ଦେଖିଲା । ଏ ବିଲକ୍ଷଣ ବିଘଟନର ଅର୍ଥ ଅନର୍ଥ, ଶୁଭ ଅଶୁଭ, ସୁଗୁଣ ଦୁର୍ଗୁଣ, ଆଗତ ଅନାଗତ, ଭୂତଭବିଷ୍ୟ, କରଣ ଅକରଣମାନ, ସମସ୍ତ ଯାହା ଯେମନ୍ତ ବିସ୍ତର କରି ଯଦି ଜାଣିବା ହୋଉଅଛ—ପୁଣି ପଞ୍ଚମନ ପଚିଶି ପ୍ରକୃତିକୁ ହୃଦ-କମଳରେ ଥାପିତ କରି ଜଳଥଳ, ଅନ୍ତରୀକ୍ଷ, ଦେବଦାନବ ଗନ୍ଧର୍ବ କିନ୍ନର ଯକ୍ଷ ଭୂତପ୍ରେତ କାକ ପିଶାଚ୍ୟତିମାନଙ୍କୁ କରି ଯେତେ ଯିଏ ଯାହାକୁ ଯାହା ସୂକ୍ଷ୍ମସ୍ଥୂଳ ଜ୍ଞାତବ୍ୟ ହେଉଅଛି ସେ ସମସ୍ତ ପରମ୍ପରା ପ୍ରମାଣେ ଅଧ୍ୱ ସମାପେ ତୁରନ୍ତ ନିର୍ଣ୍ଣୟରେ ପ୍ରକାଶ କର ।

ଶକୁନ ବିଶାରଦମାନେ କହିଲେ—ମହିମା ! ଏ ଭୂମି ବୀରକ୍ଷେତ୍ର୍ୟା ବୀରସେବ୍ୟା ଓ ବୀରପାଳିକା ଅଟଇ । ଏଠାରେ ମହାଦୁର୍ବଳ ମଧ୍ୟ ମହାପରାକ୍ରମୀ ହୋଇପାରଇ । ଏ ଭୂମି ଅପରାଜେୟ—ଏହାକୁ ଇନ୍ଦ୍ର ମଧ୍ୟ ଜୟ କରି ନ ପାରନ୍ତି । ଆପଣ ଏହି ଠାବକୁ କଟକାଇ କରି ରାଜଧାନୀ ଉଠାଇ ଆଣିବା ହୁଅନ୍ତୁ । ଏଥିରେ ମଙ୍ଗଳ ।

ବାସ୍—। ସେହିଦିନରୁ ରାଜଧାନୀ ଚଉଦ୍ୱାରରୁ ଉଠିଆସି କଟକ ନଗର ତିଆରି ହେଲା । ବାରବାଟୀ ଗ୍ରାମରେ ରଜା କଟକାଇ କରି ନଅର ତୋଳାଇଲେ । ଏ ନଗ୍ରର ନୂତନ ନାମ ଦେଲେ—ବାରଣାସୀ କଟକ ।

ତାହାପରେ ବହୁଦିନ ବିତିଯାଇଛି—ପୁଣି ବହୁ ଭଙ୍ଗାଗଢ଼ା ଭିତର ଦେଇ—ବହୁ ଯୁଦ୍ଧ ଓ ଶାନ୍ତି ଭିତର ଦେଇ ବହୁ ଉତ୍‌ଥାନ ପତନ ଭିତର ଦେଇ—ବହୁ ସଙ୍କୋଚ ଓ ପ୍ରସାରଣ ଭିତର ଦେଇ—ବହୁ ଐଶ୍ୱର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଓ ବହୁ ଦୈନ୍ୟ ଭିତରେ କଟକନଗର ବଞ୍ଚି ଆସିଲା ସେହି ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଶେଷ ସ୍ୱାଧୀନ ନରପତି ମହାବୀର ଗଜପତି ମୁକୁନ୍ଦଦେବ—ଯଉକବି ଅଚ୍ୟୁତା ନନ୍ଦ ତାଙ୍କର ଗରୁଡ଼ ଗୀତାରେ ଭବିଷ୍ୟବାଣୀ କରିଥିଲେ—

ତେଲେଙ୍ଗା ମୁକୁନ୍ଦଦେବ ନାମେ ରଜା
ଗଉଡ଼ ଦେଶରେ ହେବ
ବାଟବାଟୀ କିଲ୍ଲା ସେହି ତୋଳାଇବ
କୀରତି ସେ ରଖିଯିବ ।

ସେହି କୀର୍ତ୍ତି ମଧ୍ୟ ଅକ୍ଷୟ ହୋଇରହିଲା ନାହିଁ । କାଳସ୍ୟ କୁଟୀଳା ଗତି—ନିୟତିର ବିଚିତ୍ର ବିଧାନ—ବିଚିତ୍ର ପରିହାସ । ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ସ୍ୱାଧୀନତାର ଦୀପ ଶେଷଥର ଲାଗି ଏଇଠି ଜଳି ଉଠିଥିଲା—ପୁଣି ଏଇଠି ମଧ୍ୟ ଲିଭି ଯାଇଥିଲା । ସୁବର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଥାଳୀରେ ହୀରା ପରଶିଲେ ମୁକୁନ୍ଦଦେବଙ୍କ ରାଣୀ ।

ମାତ୍ର କଟକ ମଲା ନାହିଁ । ବାରବାଟୀ ଦୁର୍ଗ ଭାଙ୍ଗିପଡ଼ିଲା । ସେହି ଭଗ୍ନାବଶେଷ ଭିତରେ ତଥାପି ଜୀର୍ଣ୍ଣ ବେଶରେ ଠିଆ ହୋଇରହିଲା ତାର ନିଶାଣ ସ୍ୱରୂପ ପ୍ରଧାନ ତୋରଣଟି—କାଳେ କାଳେ କେତେ ଦେଖି ଯେ ଆସିଲା ନଶ୍ୱର ନରର ଗାରିମାର ଲୀଳା । ବିଂଶଶତକରେ ଜାତୀୟତା-ବୋଧରେ ଅନୁପ୍ରାଣିତ କବି ଗାଇ ଉଠିଲେ କରୁଣ ଅନୁଶୋଚନାରେ—ବାରବାଟୀ ଶିରେ ଉଡ଼ୁନାହିଁ ଧ୍ୱଜା—ବାରବାଟୀ ଗଡ଼େ ବାଜୁନାହିଁ ବାଜା ।

କଟକ ତଥାପି ରାଜଧାନୀ ହୋଇ ରହିଥିଲା ବ୍ରିଟୀଶ ରାଜତ୍ୱ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ । ଏଇଠାରେ ସ୍ୱାଧୀନତା

ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନର ପୁରୋଧାମାନଙ୍କର ପ୍ରଧାନ କେନ୍ଦ୍ରସ୍ଥଳୀ ଥିଲା । ସ୍ୱାଧୀନତା ପ୍ରାପ୍ତିପରେ କଟକ ପୁଣି ହରାଇଲା ତାର ରାଜକୀୟ ମର୍ଯ୍ୟାଦା । ଆଜି ପୁଣି କଟକରୁ ରାଜଧାନୀ ଉଠିଗଲାଣି ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱରକୁ । ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର ବହୁ ପ୍ରାଚୀନ ନଗ୍ର—ଏବେ ପୁଣି ଅଦ୍ଭୁତ ବିରାଟ ହୋଇଉଠୁଛି । ମାତ୍ର କଟକରୁ ରାଜଧାନୀ ଉଠିଗଲେ ବି କଟକର ରାଜକଳା ଉଭିଯାଇନାହିଁ କି ଯିବନାହିଁ । କଟକ ସହରର ସବୁ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ନିଜକୁ ଏକେ ଜଣେ ରାଜା ଭାବନ୍ତି । ରେକ୍ସାବାଲା, ମୋଚି, ଦିନ ମଜୁରିଆଙ୍କଠାରୁ ଲକ୍ଷପତିଙ୍କ ଯାଏ—ଅକ୍ଷମ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିଟିଏଠାରୁ ମହାକ୍ଷମତାଶାଳୀପାଏ— ସମସ୍ତେ ଏଠି ରାଜା—କେହି କାହା ପାଖେ ହେଠମୁଣ୍ଡ ହେବେ ନାହିଁ । ସର୍ବଦା ଉନ୍ନତ ଶିର—କାହାର ତୁଚ୍ଛ ପଦ ସହିବେ ନାହିଁ—ରେକ ର ପଦକୁ ଜବାବ ନ ଦେଇ ଛାଡ଼ିବେ ନାହିଁ । ଘରେ ଚୁଲୀ ନ ଜଳୁ ପଛେ ନାକ ତଳର ଝାଡ଼ା ନିଶ ତଳମୁହାଁ ହେବନାହିଁ । ଏମାନେ ସର୍ବଦା ଉପର ମୁହାଁ—ନେକ୍‌ନଜର ତାଙ୍କ ଜାତକରେ ନାହିଁ ।

ଦେଶବିଦେଶର ନାନା-ନଗର ଗତାଗତ-ବିଚକ୍ଷଣମାନେ ଏହାର ଅଧିବାସୀମାନଙ୍କ ବିଷୟରେ କହନ୍ତି—କଟକବାସୀମାନେ ସୁଭଦ୍ର, ସୁଭଦ୍ର, ସୁବୁଦ୍ଧି, ସୁଜାଣ, ସୁକୁମାର, ନିଃଶଙ୍କ ଅତିଥି ପରାୟଣ—ସୁରୁଚି ଓ ସୁନୀତି ସମ୍ପନ୍ନ । ଏମାନଙ୍କର ମର୍ଯ୍ୟାଦାବୋଧ ଓ ଲୋକ-ବ୍ୟବହାର-କୌଶଳ ଅନନ୍ୟ ସାଧାରଣ । ଏମାନେ ଭୋଜନ-ବିଳାସୀ, ନୃତ୍ୟସଙ୍ଗୀତ, ବାଦ୍ୟ, ନାଟ୍ୟ ଉପଭୋଗ ପ୍ରବଣ, ଦୁଃସାହସୀ, ସ୍ୱାଧୀନଚେତା, ଉପାର୍ଜନକ୍ଷମ ସାମାଜିକ, ସହୃଦୟ ଆଉ ନିରାଶ୍ରୟକୁ ଆଶ୍ରୟ ଦେବାରେ, ପୁଣି ଅଶରଣକୁ ଶରଣ ଦେବାରେ ଅକୁଣ୍ଠିତ, ଅକୃପଣ, ଅବାରିତ ଓ ଅଯାଚିତ । ଏଠି ହିନ୍ଦୁ, ମୁସଲମାନ ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟିଆନ, ପାର୍ସି, ଜୈନ—ସବୁ ଧର୍ମର ଲୋକେ ସୌଭ୍ରାତୃ ବନ୍ଧନରେ ମିଳିମିଶି ରହନ୍ତି । ବଙ୍ଗାଳୀ, ତେଲେଙ୍ଗା, ପଞ୍ଜାବୀ, ଗୁଜୁରାଟୀ, ମାରୁଆଡ଼ୀ, ମରହଟ୍ଟା, ତାମିଲ, କେରଳୀ, ବିହାରୀ ଆଦି ସବୁ ଜାତିର ଲୋକେ କାହିଁ କେଉଁ କାଳରୁ ପରମ୍ପରା ଧରି କଟକୀୟା ହୋଇ ରହିଆସିଛନ୍ତି । କଟକୀୟାମାନେ ପ୍ରକୃତରେ ପାଇଛନ୍ତି ମୁସଲମାନୀ ଆଭିଜାତ୍ୟ ଆଉ ରସିକତା, ମାରୁଆଡ଼ୀଙ୍କ ବ୍ୟବସାବୁଦ୍ଧି, ତେଲେଙ୍ଗାଙ୍କ କର୍ମଠତା, ପଞ୍ଜାବୀଙ୍କର ଦୁଃସାହସ, ବଙ୍ଗାଳୀଙ୍କ ଭାବପ୍ରବଣତା ଓ ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟିଆନଙ୍କର ପରଦୁଃଖ କାତର ସେବା ମନୋଭାବ । ଏଠି କେଉଁ ବଜାରର ନାଁ ମାରୁଆଡ଼ିପଟ୍ଟା ଓ କେଉଁ ବଜାରର ନାଁ ତେଲେଙ୍ଗା-ବଜାର । କେଉଁ ଗଳିର ନାଁ ମସଜିଦ ଗଳି ତ କେଉଁ ବଜାରର ନାଁ ମହମ୍ମଦିଆବଜାର । ଏଠି ବଙ୍ଗାଳୀସାହି, ଯାଚକଲେନ୍, ଭକ୍ଷାକୋଷଲେନ୍, ଖାନନଗର, ପିଟିନସାହି ଓ ଓଡ଼ିଆବଜାର, ବକ୍ସିବଜାର, ମଙ୍ଗଳାବାଗ, ବିନୋଦବିହାରୀ, ଜଗନ୍ନାଥବଲ୍ଲଭ, ରୌଦିନୀଚୌକ, ବାଲୁବଜାର, ନିମଚୌଡ଼ୀ, ମଧୁପାଟଣା—ସବୁ ମିଶିମାଶି ଏହି କଟକନଗର, ଧବଳଟଗର ।

ରସିକମାନେ କଟକର ନାରୀମାନଙ୍କ ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧେ କହନ୍ତି—ଏଠାର ନାଗରୀମାନେ ରୂପବତୀ, ସୁମଧ୍ୟମା, ବିପୁଳଚଘନା, ଗଜଗାମିନୀ ପୁଣି ନାନାଦି ହାବଭାବ ବିଳାସ ବିଭ୍ରମ ଛଇଛଟକରେ ବିଚକ୍ଷଣା, କଳାକୁଶଳା, ଭାବବତୀ ରସାତ୍ମକ ବାକ୍ୟ ପ୍ରୟୋଗ କୁଶଳା, ଦୟାର୍ଦ୍ର ହୃଦୟା, ସ୍ମିତହାସିନୀ, ଆଉ କିଞ୍ଚିତ ପୌରୁଷବତୀ ।

ଏମନ୍ତ ଏ ନଗ୍ର କଟକ । ଆମୋଦ ପ୍ରମୋଦ ଲାଗି ଏଠି କେତେ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା । ଗ୍ରାଣ୍ଡସିନେମା, ପ୍ରଭାତ ସିନେମା, କ୍ୟାପିଟେଲ ସିନେମା, ହିନ୍ଦ୍ ସିନେମା, ସୂରଜଟକିଜ, ଜ୍ୟୋତି ଟକିଜ, ଅନ୍ନପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣା ଥିଏଟର, ଜନତା ଥିଏଟର । ଏଠି ପୁଣି ଟାଉନହଲ, ଶ୍ରୀ ରାମଚନ୍ଦ୍ରଭବନ, ଶହୀଦଭବନ, ଗୌରୀ-ଶଙ୍କର ପାର୍କ, ଗୋପବନ୍ଧୁ ପାର୍କ—ଏଠି ପୁଣି ସମାଜ, ପ୍ରଜାତନ୍ତ୍ର, ମାତୃଭୂମି ଆଦି ବିଖ୍ୟାତ ପତ୍ରପତ୍ରିକା ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ । ପ୍ରତି ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟାରେ କିଛିନା କିଛି ସଭାସମିତି, ଭାଷଣ, ଅଭିଭାଷଣ, ରାଜନୀତି, ସାହିତ୍ୟ, ଧର୍ମ, ସଙ୍ଗୀତ, ନୃତ୍ୟ, ଚିତ୍ର ଇତ୍ୟାଦିର ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନୀ । ନାନା ସାମାଜିକ ବିଷୟରେ ଅହରହ ଆଲୋଚନା ଓ ମତାମତ ପ୍ରଦାନ—ଏଇଠୁ ପୁଣି ବଡ଼ ବଡ଼ ବିଷୟରେ ମତାମତମାନ ସୃଷ୍ଟିଅଛନ୍ତୁ ପଞ୍ଚରିଯାଏ । ଏଇଠି ପୁଣି ବଡ଼ବଡ଼ ସାରସ୍ୱତ ସାଧକ ଓ ବିଶିଷ୍ଟ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିଙ୍କର ସାଧନାପୀଠ ଓ ସମାଧୀପୀଠ । କନ୍ୟା-କୁଳିତା ନଦୀ ଭଳି ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀ ଏଠି ଚଞ୍ଚଳା କିନ୍ତୁ ପରିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣା । ଏହା କାମୀମାନଙ୍କ ପକ୍ଷେ କାମାକ୍ଷାପୁରୀ ।

ଧର୍ମାର୍ଥୀଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ସାଧନାପୀଠ—ଅର୍ଥାର୍ଥୀଙ୍କ ପକ୍ଷରେ କୁବେରପୁରୀ ଓ ମୋକ୍ଷାଭିଳାଷୀଙ୍କ ଲାଗି ମୁକ୍ତିର ନନ୍ଦନ। ଏଠି ରାତି ନାହିଁ—ଦିନ ମଧ୍ୟ ନାହିଁ। ଏ ସହର ଅହୋରାତ୍ର ସଜାଗ, ସର୍ବଦା ସତର୍କ, ସର୍ବଦା କର୍ମରତ ଓ ଶବ୍ଦମୁଖର। ରୋଗ ବଢ଼ିଗଲେ ଲୋକେ ଏଇଠିକି ଆସନ୍ତି ଆରୋଗ୍ୟ ଆଶାରେ—। ଏଇଠି ଜଣେ ଅନ୍ୟ ଜଣକୁ ହାଇକୋର୍ଟ ଦେଖାଇଦିଏ। ଖେଳୁଆଡ଼ମାନେ ଏଇଠି ଦେଖାଇବାକୁ ଆସନ୍ତି ସେମାନଙ୍କର କ୍ରୀଡ଼ା-କୌଶଳ। ଭାଗ୍ୟ ଖରାପ ହେଲେ ଏ ଜାଗାରେ ପୁଅ ତା'ର ବାପାକୁ ଡାକେ ମଉସା—ଆଉ ମଉସାକୁ ଡାକେ ବାପା। ପୁଣି ଭାଗ୍ୟ ପ୍ରସନ୍ନ ହେଲେ ଏଠି ଆକାଶର ଚାନ୍ଦ ହାତକୁ ଆସିଯାଏ—ଅଭାଗା ମୁଣ୍ଡରେ ଅଚାନକ କାହୁଁ ହାତୀଟିଏ ଆସି ସୁନାକଳସରୁ ପାଣି ଢାଳି ଦିଏ। ବହୁ ଅଘଟଣ ଏଠି ଘଟଣ ହୋଇଯାଏ। ପୁଣି ବହୁ ଘଟଣ ହୋଇପଡ଼େ ଅଘଟଣ। ଏଠି ବେଳେବେଳେ ଡଗଟିଏ ଶୁଣିବାକୁ ମିଳେ ଉଚ୍ଚକିତ ଗଳାରେ—ଆଲୋ ମଉସା, ଆଗ ପଇସା। ପୁଣି ସମସ୍ୱରରେ ଆଉ ଜଣେ କେହି ଚିଲେଇ ଉଠେ—'ରଖ ତୁମର ପଇସା ବଡ଼ାଭାଇ। ତୁମ୍ ହାମ୍‌କୁ ଦିଲ୍ ଦେଇଦେଲ ତ—ହାମ୍‌କୁ ସାରା ଦୁନିଆର ଦୌଲତ ମିଳିଗଲା।' ଏଠି ବାବୁ—ସବୁ କଥା କଲି ହବନାହିଁ। ଅକଳନ୍ତି ଅଜବ ଏ ସହର। ଏଠି ଷଣ୍ଢଟିଏ ମରିଗଲେ ତାକୁ ବିରାଟ ଏକ ଶୋଭାଯାତ୍ରାରେ ବାଜା ବଜନ୍ତ୍ରୀସହ ସଂକୀର୍ତ୍ତନ କରି ଶହ ଶହ ଲୋକ ଗୋରସ୍ଥାନକୁ ବହି ନିଅନ୍ତି। କଣ୍ଢେଇ ବାହାଘରରେ ହଜାର ହଜାର ଲୋକଙ୍କୁ ପଲାଉ, ଖିରି ପିଠାରେ ଆପ୍ୟାୟିତ କରାଯାଏ। ଏଠି ଦଶହରା କାଳୀପୂଜାରେ ଭସାଣି ଉତ୍ସବରେ ମୁସଲମାନମାନେ ମଧ୍ୟ ପଟୁଆରରେ ଖଣ୍ଡାଖେଳ ଦେଖାଇ ଚାଲନ୍ତି। ମହରମକୁ ତାଜିଆ ସାଙ୍ଗେ ଚାଲିଥାନ୍ତି ଦଳଦଳ ଖେଳୁଆଡ଼ ହିନ୍ଦୁ। କୌଣସି ଅଭିଜାତ ମୁସଲମାନର ପୁଅ ସାଦୀଘରକୁ ନିମନ୍ତ୍ରଣ ଖାଇବଲେ ମନେହେବ—ଏ କଟକ ନା ଲକ୍ଷ୍ନୌ? କାର୍ତ୍ତିକ ମାସରେ ଗଡ଼ଗଡ଼ିଆ ଘାଟପାଖେ ସକାଳୁ ମନେ ହେବ ଏହା କଣ ବାରଣସୀ? ଦଶହରାବେଳେ ଚଉଧୁରୀବଜାରରେ ଠିଆ ହେଲେ ମନେ ହେବ ଏହା କଣ କଲିକତା? ଏମନ୍ତ ଏ କଟକନଗର। ଏବଂବିଧ ଏ ନଗ୍ରର ଗତି ପ୍ରକୃତି।

ଉତ୍କଳର ଗଙ୍ଗା ଯମୁନା ସ୍ୱରୂପା ମହାନଦୀ ଓ କାଠଯୋଡ଼ି—କଟକ ନଗରକୁ ଆପଣାର ଦୁଇ ପ୍ରେମାପ୍ଲୁତ ବାହୁରେ ସର୍ବଦା ଆଲିଙ୍ଗନ କରି ରହିଛନ୍ତି। ତାଳଦଣ୍ଡା କେନାଲ ଏହାର କଟୀ ଦେଶରେ ମେଖଳା ପରି ଶୋଭମାନା। ଏଠି ବାର ମାସରେ ତେର ପର୍ବ—ଚଉଦ ପର୍ବାଣୀ। ଫଗୁଣ ମାସରେ ସାହି ସାହି ଦୋଳଗୋବିନ୍ଦଙ୍କ ଫଗୁଣ ଉତ୍ସବ—ବିମାନରେ ବସାଇ ଦୋଳଗୋବିନ୍ଦ ମୂର୍ତ୍ତିମାନଙ୍କୁ ସାହି ସାହି ବୁଲା—ହୋଲି ପରବରେ ମସଗୁଲ କଟକ। ସେଇଠୁ ଆସେ ଚଇତ—ରାମନବମୀ ଯାତ୍ରା—ଶ୍ରୀହନୁମାନଜୀଙ୍କ ସମ୍ମୁଖରେ ମାସ ମାସ ଧରି ଶ୍ରୀରାମଲୀଳା ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ—ରାମଚରିତ ପାରାୟଣ—ଏ ବସ୍ତିରେ, ସେ ସାହିରେ—କଟକ ସାରା। ସେଇଠୁ ଆସେ ବିଷୁବ ମିଳନ। ତା ପରେ ରଥଯାତ୍ରା—କଟକ ଡାକ ମାଳ ମାଳ ରଥ—ସେଇଠୁ ଝୁଲଣ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣିମା—ମଠମାନଙ୍କରେ ରାଧାଗୋବିନ୍ଦଙ୍କ ଝୁଲଣର ପବିତ୍ର ସ୍ପନ୍ଦନରେ ସାରା କଟକ ଶିହରିତ ହୁଏ। ସେଇଠୁ ଜନ୍ମାଷ୍ଟମୀ—ଗଣନାଥ ପୂଜା—ଖୁଦୁରୁକୁଣୀ ପୂଜା—ସେଇଠୁ ଆସନ୍ତି ଜଗନ୍ମୟୀ ଦୁର୍ଗାମାତା—କଟକର ସବୁଠାରୁ ବଡ଼ପର୍ବ ଦଶହରା ଆଉ ଦିଆଲୀ। ତାରୀକାମରେ ଜାଜ୍ୱଲ୍ୟମାନ ମେଢ଼ମାନ ଭିତରେ ମୃଣ୍ମୟୀ ମୂର୍ତ୍ତିରେ ଚିନ୍ମୟୀର ଆଭା, ଦ୍ୟୁତି ଓ ଦୀପ୍ତିରେ ଜମମାନ। ସେଇଠୁ କାଳୀପୂଜା—କାର୍ତ୍ତିକ ମାସରେ କାର୍ତ୍ତିକେଶ୍ୱରଙ୍କ ଆରାଧନା—ବାଲିଯାତ୍ରା—ବୋଇତ ଭସାଣ ଉତ୍ସବ। ଏହା ସଙ୍ଗେ ସଙ୍ଗେ ସଙ୍ଗେ ପୁଣି ଅଛି—ମହରମ, ଇଦ, ବଡ଼ଦିନ ଆଉ ଗୁଡ୍‌ଫ୍ରାଇଡେ ଯାତ୍ରା। କୋଉଦିନ ଭଲା କଟକରେ ପର୍ବ ନାହିଁ? ଆନନ୍ଦ ଉଲ୍ଲାସ ଲାଗି ପରିବେଶ ନାହିଁ? ଧର୍ମଭାବ ଅର୍ଜ୍ଜନ ଲାଗି ସାନିଯାତ୍ରା ନାହିଁ? ବୈଶାଖ ଜ୍ୟେଷ୍ଠ ମାସରେ ରାତି ସାରା କଟକରେ ଆଜି ଏ ସାହିରେ ପାଲା ତ ସେ ଗଳିରେ ଦାସକାଠିଆ—ସେ ସାହିରେ ଯାତ୍ରା ସୁଆଙ୍ଗ—ଏ ବସ୍ତିରେ କବାଲୀ ଉତ୍ସବ—ସେ ବଜାରରେ ନୃତ୍ୟ ସଙ୍ଗୀତ। ଏହାଛଡ଼ା, ଏ ଗଛମୂଳେ ତ୍ରିନାଥ ପୂଜାର ଖଞ୍ଜଣୀମାଡ଼ ଭଜନ ଚାଲିଛି—ସେ ଗଛମୂଳେ ଚାଲିଥିବ ପହିଲିମାନମାନଙ୍କର କୁସ୍ତି ଆଖଡ଼ା। ଏମିତି ଏମିତି କଟକ ସହର ରାତିସାରା ଶୁଏ ନାହିଁ—ଦିନସାରା ଖଟୁଥାଏ ଜୀବନ

ସଂଗ୍ରାମରେ ପିମ୍ପୁଡ଼ିମାନଙ୍କ ପରି, ମହୁମାଛିମାନଙ୍କ ପରି, ଜନ୍ତମାନଙ୍କ ପରି । ଆଉ ସବୁ ସାର ଭାବନକୁ ଅନୁଭବ କରୁଥାଏ—ଉପଭୋଗ କରୁଥାଏ ମଣିଷ ପରି କେତେ ବାଟରେ, କେତେ ଢଙ୍ଗରେ—କେତେ ପ୍ରକାରେ । ଧନ୍ୟ ଧନ୍ୟ ଏ କଟକ—କିମ୍ଭୂତ ଏ ନଗ୍ର । ଯାକୁ ୟେ ପଟୁ ପଢ଼ିଲେ କଟକ—ପୁଣି ସେ ପଟୁ ପଢ଼ିଲେ ବି ସେଇ କଟକ ।

ସମ୍ବଲପୁର ବଲାଙ୍ଗୀର ସମେତ ପଶ୍ଚିମ ଓଡ଼ିଶାବାସୀଙ୍କର କୁଆଡ଼େ କଟକୀୟାଙ୍କ ଉପରେ ଭାରୀ ସନ୍ଦେହ, ଭାରୀ ରାଗ । ସେମାନଙ୍କର ବଦ୍ଧମୂଳ ଧାରଣା କୁଆଡ଼େ କଟକୀୟାମାନେ ଚୋର, କଟକୀୟାମାନେ ଗଣ୍ଠିକଟା—କଟକୀୟମାନେ ଚଣ୍ଡିକଟା—ଠକ—ଜାଲିଆତ । ଅମ୍ଭ ବିଚାରରେ ଏହାଠାରୁ ହାସ୍ୟକର କଥା ଆଉ ନାହିଁ । ଆହୁରି ହାସ୍ୟକର କଥା ହେଉଛି—ସେମାନେ କଟକୀୟା, କହିଲାବେଳେ କେବଳ କଟକ ନଗ୍ରର ଅଧିବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ବୁଝନ୍ତି ନାହିଁ ଉପକୂଳବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ବିରାଟ ସମତଳ ଭୂଖଣ୍ଡର ଅଧିବାସୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ଏହି ନାମରେ ଓ ବିଶେଷଣରେ ନାମିତ କରନ୍ତି ଓ ଭର୍ତ୍ସନା କରନ୍ତି । ପୁଣି ସାଧୁ ଭାଷାରେ ବା ତତ୍‌ସମ ଶବ୍ଦ ସମ୍ବଳିତ ଯେକୌଣସି ଓଡ଼ିଆ ବାକ୍ୟକୁ କଟକୀ ଭାଷା କହନ୍ତି । ଏହା ମଧ୍ୟ ତହୁଁ ବଳି ହାସ୍ୟକର । କାରଣ କଟକୀୟା ଶବ୍ଦର ଅର୍ଥ-ପରିସରକୁ ଯଥାଇଚ୍ଛା ବ୍ୟାପକ କରିଦେଇ, ଯେତେ ଚୋର ଡାକୁ ଠକ ଜାଲିଆତ୍ ଅଛନ୍ତି ଏ ଖଣ୍ଡମଣ୍ଡଳରେ, ସେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ଏହି ପରିସର ଭିତରକୁ ନେଇଆସି "ଶାଲା କଟକୀ ଚୋର" କହିଦେଲେ ପଶ୍ଚିମ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର କତିପୟ ଭର୍ତ୍ସନାକାମୀ ମନ ଆମୋଦିତ ହୋଇପାରେ । କିନ୍ତୁ ଏତଦ୍ଵାରା କଟକ ସହରର ଖାଣ୍ଟି ଅଧିବାସୀଙ୍କ ଚରିତ୍ର-ବିଚାର ପକ୍ଷେ ଏହା ବଡ଼ ନିଷ୍ଠୁର ଅବିଚାର । ଆରେ ବାବୁ । ଚୋର କୋଉଠି ନାହାନ୍ତି ? ଆମ ଗାଁର କୁହାଳିଆ ମୁକୁନ୍ଦ ଭଞ୍ଜ ମିଶ୍ରେ କହିଲା ପରି—କୋଉ ମୁଣ୍ଡରେ ଉକୁଣୀ ନାହାନ୍ତି ? କୋଉ ଗାଁରେ ବା ଚୋର ନାହାନ୍ତି ? ତା'ଛଡ଼ା, ଏ ସଂସାରରେ ଖାଲି ଯେଉଁମାନେ ଚୋରୀ କରନ୍ତି ତାଙ୍କୁଇ କହିବ ଚୋର ? ଆଉ ଯେଉଁମାନେ ଚୋରୀ କରିନାହାନ୍ତି, କରିପାରୁନାହାନ୍ତି—ସେମାନେ ସମସ୍ତେ ସାଧୁ ? ବେଳ ପଡ଼ିଲେ ଯାଇ ଜଣାପଡ଼େ କିଏ ଚୋର, କିଏ ସାଧୁ । ସେ ବେଳରେ କଟକୀୟା, ସମ୍ବଲପୁରିଆ, ବାଲେଶ୍ୱରୀଆ, ଢେଙ୍କାନାଳିଆ, ବରହମପୁରିଆ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର ପରୀକ୍ଷା ହୋଇଯିବନି କି ? ତେଣୁ ସେ ସବୁ କଥା ଛାଡ଼ନ୍ତୁ ସୁଧୀଜନେ । ଏ କଟକ୍ ହେ ମେରୀ ଜାନ୍ । ମଧ୍ୟପ୍ରଦେଶର ରାୟପୁର ଜିଲ୍ଲାଆଡ଼ୁ ଯୋଉଁ ବିରାଟକାୟ ନଦୀ ସମ୍ବଲପୁରକୁ ଆଲିଙ୍ଗନ କରି ବଙ୍ଗୋପସାଗର ଆଡ଼କୁ ବହି ଆସିଛି—ସେହି ଉତ୍କଳ-ଗଙ୍ଗା ମହାନଦୀ କଟକକୁ ମଧ୍ୟ ଆଲିଙ୍ଗନ କରି ରହିଛି ଅଧା ବାଟରେ । କଟକୀୟାଙ୍କର ସମ୍ବଲପୁରୀ-ପ୍ରୀତି କଥାରେ କହିଲେ ସରିବ ନାହିଁ । ସମ୍ବଲପୁରୀ ଶାଢ଼ୀ, ସମ୍ବଲପୁରୀ ସଙ୍ଗୀତ, ହୀରାକୁଦ ବନ୍ଧ, ମହାନଦୀ ପାଣି ଆଉ ବିଦ୍ୟୁତଶକ୍ତି—ଏତେକ ଜାଣ କଟକୀୟାଙ୍କ ପ୍ରାଣର ବସ୍ତୁ । ମୋଟ କଥା—ସତକଥା—କଟକୀୟାମାନେ କାହାକୁ ଘୃଣା କରନ୍ତି ନାହିଁ । କାହାକୁ ଈର୍ଷା କରନ୍ତି ନାହିଁ—କାହାର ଶିରୀ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି ଲାଗି ପ୍ରତିବାଦ କରନ୍ତି ନାହିଁ । ସେମାନେ ଭାଇଭାଇ ହୋଇ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ସାଙ୍ଗେ ମିଳିମିଶି ରହିବାକୁ ଚାହାନ୍ତି । ଦିଲ୍‌ଦାରୀ ଚାହାନ୍ତି । ସେମାନଙ୍କ ଭାଷା ହେଉଛି—ଆରେ ଲବୀନା । ଲଅଟା ପଇସାକୁ ଲଅଟା ଲଢ଼ିଆ—ଲେବୁ ଯଦି ଲେ—ଲଇଲେ ଲେଲାବାଲା ଅଛି—ଲେଇ ଚାଲିଯିବ ।

କଟକୀୟାଙ୍କର ଗୋଟାଏ ଦୋଷ—ସେମାନେ ଭାରୀ ଉପରମୁହାଁ । ସେମାନଙ୍କ ସାଙ୍ଗେ ସମ୍ପର୍କ ରଖିବାକୁ ହେଲେ ଉପର ମୁହାଁ ହେବାକୁ ପଡ଼ିବ । ତଳମୁହାଁଙ୍କୁ ସେମାନେ ଭାରୀ ଚିଡ଼ନ୍ତି—କହନ୍ତି ଢେଙ୍କାନାଳିଆ । ସେକାଳେ ଢେଙ୍କାନାଳର ଗରୀବ ଲୋକେ କଟକର ହାତଟଣା ରେକ୍‌ସା ଟାଣି ପେଟ ପୋଷୁଥିଲେ ।

କିନ୍ତୁ ଆଜି ଯୁଗ ଓଲଟିଛି । ଆଜି କଟକର ଝୁଅ—ଢେଙ୍କାନାଳର ବୋହୂ । ଦିନେ କୋଉଦିନ—କାହିଁ କେତେ ଯୁଗର ତଳ କଥା—ଏଇ କଟକର ଚିନ୍ତା ଲାଗିଥିଲା ବାଇମୁଣ୍ଡି ବୋଲି ପରଦୁଃଖକାତର ରୂଷୀଟିଏକୁ । ଆଜି ସେଇ କଟକର ଚିନ୍ତା ଘାରିଛି କଟକର ଝୁଅ—ଢେଙ୍କାନାଳର ବୋହୂ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ନନ୍ଦିନୀ ଶତପଥୀଙ୍କୁ । ଇତି ମଧ୍ୟରେ ମହାନଦୀ କାଠଯୋଡ଼ୀରେ କେତେ

ପାଣି ବୋହିଗଲାଣି ଶତାବ୍ଦୀ ଶତାବ୍ଦୀ ଧରି । ମରକତ କେଶରୀଙ୍କ ପରେ ଏ ରାଜା ହେଲେ—ଏତେବର୍ଷ । ସେ ରାଜା ହେଲେ ସେତେବର୍ଷ । ସେଇଠୁ ଏ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ହେଲେ ଏତେବର୍ଷ—ସେ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ହେଲେ ସେତେ-ବର୍ଷ—କିନ୍ତୁ କଟକ ଚିନ୍ତା କାହାରି ମୁଣ୍ଡକୁ ଘାରି ନଥିଲା ତିଳପରିମାଣେ । କଟକର ଦେହଟାକ ଗୋଦର, ଗଳିତ କୁଷ୍ଠ—ଯାଦୁ, କାନ୍ଥୁ, ବିଛିଚି, ଶେଷକୁ କର୍କଟ ରୋଗରେ ରଣଭଣ ହୋଇଉଠିଲା । କଟକର ପ୍ରାଣଶକ୍ତି ନିଷ୍ପୀଡ଼ିତ ହୋଇ କଟକର ମସ୍ତିଷ୍କ ଅପସ୍ମାରଗ୍ରସ୍ତ ହୋଇଗଲା । ଆଉ କଟକର ଆତ୍ମା ।। ଆହା ।। ଏପଟେ କାଠଯୋଡ଼ୀର ବିରାଟ ପୋଲ—ସେପଟେ ମହାନଦୀର ସୁବିଶାଳ ପୋଲ । ଯୋଉ ପୋଲ ଉପରେ ଯେ କୌଣସି ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟାରେ ଠିଆହୋଇ ବିସ୍ତୃତ ଦିଗ୍‌ବଳୟ ଭିତରେ କଟକକୁ ଦେଖି ଯେ କେହି ଭାବୁକ ଶୁଭକାମୀ ଲୋକ ବୁଝିପାରିଥିଲା—କଟକର ଆତ୍ମା କେତେ ବିକଳରେ ଆପଣାର ବିକଳ ଦେହ ଓ ପ୍ରାଣର ରୂପାନ୍ତର ପାଇଁ ଅହରହ କାନ୍ଦି ଲାଗିଥିଲା । କଟକର ନଗର-ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀଙ୍କ ଆଖିରୁ ଅବିରତ ଅଶ୍ରୁଝର ବହୁଥିଲା । ଭାରତ ପାକିସ୍ତାନ ଯୁଦ୍ଧବେଳେ ବହୁ ଅନୁଭବୀ ଶୁଭକାମୀ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ଓ ସମଜ୍‌ଦାର ଆଦ୍‌ମୀମାନେ କଟକ ପ୍ରତି ଚରମ ବିରକ୍ତି ପ୍ରକାଶକରି ଅଭିଶାପ ଦେଉଥିଲେ—ଏହି ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ-ଅନିଚ୍ଛୁକ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀଛଡ଼ା ସହର ଉପରେ ୟାହିଆ ଖାଁ ଯଦି ଦୁଇଟି ବୋମା ପକାଇ ଦିଅନ୍ତା—ତେବେ ଖୁବ୍ ଭଲ ହୁଅନ୍ତା । ଏ ଅସନା ସହର ଧ୍ୱଂସ ପାଇ ଏହା ଭିତରୁ ନୂଆ ସହରଟିଏ ଜନ୍ମ ନିଅନ୍ତା । ମାତ୍ର ନେତାମାନେ ଏହାପ୍ରତି ଉଦାସୀନ ଥିଲେ । ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ କଟକର ଏହି ତାମସିକ ନିଦ୍ରା ଜଡ଼ତା ଖୁବ୍ ସୁହାଉ ଥିଲା । ବରଂ ବହୁ ନେତା କଟକର ଏହି କୁତ୍ସିତ ତାମସିକତାକୁ ଆପଣାଆଡୁ ଆହୁରି ବଢ଼ାଇ ଚାଲିଥିଲେ ଓ ନିଜେ ତମସାବଦ୍ଧ ହୋଇ ଅସ୍ତାଚଳ ଚୂଡ଼ାବଲମ୍ବନ କରୁଥିଲେ ।

ମାତ୍ର । ଅହୋ ଭାଗ୍ୟ । କ୍ଷୀର ସମୁଦ୍ରରେ ଅନନ୍ତଶାୟୀ ବିଷ୍ଣୁଙ୍କର ଯୋଗନିଦ୍ରା ଭାଙ୍ଗିଗଲା । ତାଙ୍କର ପରମ କରୁଣାଦୀପ୍ତ ଆଶା ଅନନ୍ତ ଜୀବନ ସଂଚାରୀ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିର ଆଲୋକ ପୁନର୍ବାର ବିଚ୍ଛୁରିତ ହୋଇ ପଡ଼ିଲା କଟକ ଉପରେ । ତା'ପରେ—ତା ପରେ—

ତା'ପରେ ଏ ସହରରେ ଯାହାସବୁ ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ଘଟିଗଲା ଓ ଭବିଷ୍ୟତରେ ପୁଣି ଘଟିବାକୁ ଯାଉଛି—ସେ ସବୁ ଭବିଷ୍ୟତର ମାଦଳାପାଞ୍ଜିରେ କେହି ହୁଏତ ଲେଖୁଛନ୍ତି ବା ଲେଖିବେ

ଏ ଭିତରୁ ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ନନ୍ଦିନୀ ଶତପଥୀ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ-ଆସନରେ ବସିଲେ ।...... ନିରନ୍ତର ଚିନ୍ତାରେ ବିଭୋରିଲେ— କେମନ୍ତେ ଏ ନଗ୍ରକୁ ସଜାଡ଼ିବା ।......କେମନ୍ତେ ଏ ନଗ୍ରକୁ ନୂଆକରି ନିର୍ମାଣିବା ।......କେମନ୍ତେ ଏ ନଗ୍ରର ମୃତ, ସୁପ୍ତ ଓ ନଷ୍ଟପ୍ରାୟ ପ୍ରାଣଶକ୍ତିକୁ ପୁନର୍ବାର ଜାଗ୍ରତ କରିବା ।...... କୌଣସି ଉପାୟରେ ଅମ୍ଭେ ଏହାର ଆତ୍ମା-ପୁରୁଷକୁ ନରକର ନିଗଡ଼ ମଧ୍ୟରୁ ଉଦ୍ଧାରି ଧରିବା ।......କିନ୍ତୁ ଏଥିରେ ବହୁ ପ୍ରତିରୋଧ ହେଲା......ଅପଶକ୍ତିମାନେ ବହୁ କଟାଳ କନ୍ଦଳ ଓ ଜଞ୍ଜାଳ ଦିଆଇଲେ......ଏଥକୁ କାଳାନ୍ତର ହେଲା—ଦେଶରେ ଜରୁରୀ ପରିସ୍ଥିତି ଜାରୀ ହୋଇଲା— ......''

ଉପଯୁକ୍ତ ନେତୃତ୍ୱ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶରେ ଯାହାକିଛି ଜୀର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଶୀର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଓ କୁତ୍ସିତ ପୁରାତନ, ଯାହା କିଛି ସୌନ୍ଦର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଓ ମଙ୍ଗଳର ପ୍ରତିରୋଧୀ, ଯାହାକିଛି ଗତି ଓ ପ୍ରଗତିର ପ୍ରତିବନ୍ଧକ, ଯାହାକିଛି ନୀତି ଓ ଶୃଙ୍ଖଳାର ବିରୋଧୀ ତାକୁ ସବୁ ଭାଙ୍ଗି ଦିଆଗଲା । ଏବଂ ତା' ସଙ୍ଗେ ସଙ୍ଗେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଚାଲିଲା ନୂତନ ନିର୍ମାଣର ପର୍ବ—ପରିକଳ୍ପନା—ଯୋଜନା ଓ କ୍ରିୟାକର୍ମ । ଯାହାକିଛି ମନେ ହେଉଥିଲା ଅସାଧ୍ୟ ଆଉ ଦୁଃସାଧ୍ୟ ବୋଲି ତାକୁଇ ସାଧିପାରିବାର କ୍ଷମତା ହିଁ ଯଥାର୍ଥ ନେତୃତ୍ୱ । ସର୍ବଶେଷରେ—

କଟକ ସହର ସୁନ୍ଦର ହେଉ
ଧବଳ ଟଗର ପରି ।
କଟକ ସହର ଶୁଭ୍ରପ୍ରଦାୟକ ହେଉ
ଅମରାବତୀ ଭଳି ।

An agreement has been reached between the STATE OWNED INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF ORISSA LTD., and THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING FEDERATION OF INDIA LTD., (NAFED) New Delhi, to set up a JUTE MILL IN ORISSA., as a JOINT VENTURE CONCERN at a cost of Rs. 5.00 Crores to produce 13,000 Tonnes of Jute goods a year. Photo shows SRI S. N. DASMAHAPATRA, Managing Director, Industrial Development Corporation Ltd,, signing the agreement and SRI S. B. PATIL, Chairman, (NAFED) sitting by his side. SRI N. PADHEE. Secretary, IDC, Orissa Ltd, is getting the agreement signed.

